

Lesotho rules out S.African pact

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Lesotho will not sign a non-aggression pact with South Africa, as Mozambique has done. Lesotho Information Minister Desmond Sisishe said in a South African television interview Saturday. Mozambique and South Africa signed an accord a week ago under which each country pledged not to allow its territory to be used by guerrillas for attacks against the other. White-ruled South Africa is seeking similar accords with its other black neighbours, informed sources say, and senior South African officials this week held security talks in Cape Town with their counterparts from Botswana. "Lesotho is not going to sign a non-aggression pact," Mr. Sisishe said in the interview in Maseru, his country's capital. He criticised South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation and also said Lesotho would not sign a non-aggression pact with South Africa because the two countries had no history of military confrontation.

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Robbers net \$21m in Italian heist

ROME (AP) — Robbers claiming to be Red Brigades members staged a daring robbery Saturday that netted 35 billion lire (\$21.8 million) in what is believed to be the largest heist in modern Italian history, officials said. Police said the five men pulled off the robbery with military precision and must have had inside help because of their knowledge of the operations and security at the Brink's Securmark Company, an armoured car and security company that stores cash for several local companies and banks. After company officials finished an inventory, police raised the amount stolen from 25.75 billion lire (\$16.1 million) to 35 billion lire (\$21.8 million) — 85 per cent in cash and the rest in securities. Police first said they considered it likely that the Red Brigades were responsible, but later said several factors had been discovered to raise doubts.

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Gandhi sends message to Kuwait on Gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, received a message Saturday from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on current efforts by the chairman of the non-aligned nations movement to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end. An official announcement said the message was a reply to the one the Emir had dispatched to Mrs. Gandhi calling for "boosting efforts to halt bloodshed and end the war" between the two Gulf countries. No details were disclosed.

Habash, Hawatmeh in South Yemen

ADEN (R) — A Palestine delegation has arrived in Aden for talks with South Yemeni leaders on the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Arab region, the Aden News Agency reported Saturday. It said George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were among delegation members. Both men oppose the moderate policies of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Eban to visit Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A leading member of Israel's Labour Party, former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, will arrive here on April 3 for a three-day visit at the invitation of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the weekly October magazine reported Saturday. Mr. Eban is expected to meet President Hosni Mubarak and have talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali and other officials.

Bomb hoax at Cairo Israeli embassy

CAIRO (AP) — An anonymous caller telephoned the Israeli embassy on Thursday saying a bomb had been planted on the premises but a search produced no explosives, an Israeli embassy spokesman said Saturday.

Tikka Khan under house detention

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani military authorities have detained government opponent and former army chief Tikka Khan and put him under two months of house arrest, opposition sources said Saturday. The retired general, deputy secretary general of the banned Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, received the detention order at his home in Rawalpindi Friday night, the sources said.

Japan warned of tidal waves

TOKYO (R) — Northern Japan was warned Saturday that tidal waves could hit the area after an undersea earthquake. The meteorological agency said waves could strike Hokkaido's Pacific and Okhotsk sea coasts as well as the Pacific shore of Northern Honshu, the country's main island, it said the earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale and with an epicentre about 200 kilometres east of the main northern island of Hokkaido, occurred at 6.44 p.m. (0944 GMT).

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Iraqi forces destroy 4 ships near Kharg

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi jet fighters and naval forces destroyed four oil tankers and merchant ships in a pre-dawn strike near Iran's vital Kharg Island oil terminal Saturday, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

A brief statement gave no other details of the attack and neither Lloyds shipping agents nor the foreign embassies here had immediate information on the attack or on the size and nationality of the ships involved.

The attack marked at least some measure of escalation in the long-drawn conflict between the two Gulf neighbours — now in its 42nd month — following close on a spell of reduced activity between ground forces on the southern front.

Iraqi forces spotted the vessels early Saturday near Kharg, the outlet for almost all Iran's oil exports on which it depends to fight the war, and attacked just after 3 a.m. (midnight GMT), the spokesman said.

Western diplomats speculated that Iraq may well have used its French-supplied Super Etendard jets equipped with sea-skimming Exocet missiles in the strike.

Iraq announced in late February that it was imposing a sea blockade on Iranian ports and called on maritime agencies to refrain from sending ships across the "zone of military operations" stretching along the Iranian coast.

"We will strike at any naval target in the zone of military operations to strengthen the blockade

on Kharg and other Iranian ports," an unidentified spokesman said on Baghdad Radio Saturday.

Iraq has reported sinking dozens of merchant ships in previous naval and air attacks at the head of the Gulf, and several non-Iranian merchantmen have been among them.

Kharg Island handles almost all Iran's oil exports, and Tehran has said it will close the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf if Iraq disrupts its oil shipments.

The Strait is the conduit for about a sixth of the Western world's oil exports and the United States, which has about 30 warships in the area backed by British and French vessels, has pledged to keep the oil flowing.

A war communique broadcast by Baghdad Radio said Iraqi war planes and helicopter gunships made day-long intensive bombing raids against Iranian positions and troop buildups in the Howzeib marshes, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the Iranians.

The communique conceded an Iraqi jet was shot down by the Iranians Friday, and said the Iranians would be responsible for the fate of its pilot.

The communique said in ground action, Iraqi artillery forces pounded Iranian troop buildups east of Basra, killing 48 Iranian soldiers. Iranian counter-shelling killed three Iraqis and wounded two others in Basra, the communique added.

There has been no indication yet of a fresh Tehran offensive diplomats have predicted.

Well-informed sources in Baghdad told the Jordan Times Friday that the planned Iranian offensive, which was scheduled to be launched last Wednesday, did not materialise and interpreted the apparent Iranian decision to delay it as a tactical move in the light of a new peace plan proposed by Algeria to end the war.

The Algerian plan, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan, was presented to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who visited Algeria recently. The initial Iranian reaction to the plan was positive and Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad Taleb Al Ibrahim discussed it with Syrian officials in Damascus last week, Al Watan said. The success of the plan depends on Syrian contacts with Iran, it added.

Syria supports Iran in the war and Tehran's relations with Damascus are reported to be good.

On the other hand, a seven-member Arab committee is due to meet in Tunis next week to consider practical measures to force Iran, which has turned down all mediation efforts in its war with Iraq, to the negotiating table.

U.S. military presence unwarranted in Gulf, page 2

PSP gains upper hand in Beirut battle with Murabitoun

BEIRUT (AP) — Relative calm prevailed here Saturday after Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) fighters gained the upper hand over rival Murabitoun militiamen in two days of street battles that left 28 people dead in west Beirut.

Police said about 110 other persons were wounded in the fighting that pitted the mainly Druze PSP against the Libyan-backed mostly Sunni Muslim Murabitoun militia on Thursday and Friday.

Police sources said the PSP suffered six dead and 23 wounded. The reported casualties were either Murabitoun or civilians caught on the crossfire that was heaviest along west Beirut's Corniche Mazraa shopping thoroughfare, the sources said.

PSP militiamen were seen surrounding the Murabitoun headquarters and "Voice of Arab Lebanon" radio station in the Gamal Abdul Nasser Mosque on Saturday. They also held positions in an adjoining chain of low income neighbourhoods stretching to the French-policed museum crossing point to the predominantly Christian east Beirut.

The French government said in a communique issued by spokesman Michel Vauzelle that its peacekeeping troops would withdraw from the Lebanese capital within a few days.

Gunfire and grenade blasts erupted anew at mid-morning. But a PSP statement said PSP fighters had fired barrages in the air to salute their fallen comrades during funeral processions in the Druze village of Lower Musaitbeh.

The shooting caused momentary panic. Motorists raced away with horns blaring, pedestrians dove for cover, vegetable vendors deserted their carts and shopkeepers hurriedly lowered their shutters.

Under a ceasefire agreement reached after nightfall Friday, PSP militiamen were to turn over the Murabitoun's headquarters and radio station on Saturday to Sheikh Abdul Hafiz Kassem, a Sunni Muslim cleric whose small Libyan-financed militia stayed out of the fighting.

The ceasefire was worked out in a meeting of various political groups at the home of Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, spiritual head of the Sunni community in Lebanon. The agreement provided for all militiamen to leave the streets and dismantle military positions.

Several Sunni politicians and religious leaders have criticised the PSP crackdown on the Murabitoun. They apparently fear the PSP might seek to control predominantly Sunni Muslim west Beirut by force of arms.

Meanwhile, administration sources said President Amin Gemayel was waiting for opposition leaders who participated at the national reconciliation talks held last week in Switzerland to return to Lebanon in order to begin consultations on forming a national coalition cabinet.

Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan also dispatched a three-man delegation headed by former Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss to Damascus Saturday to consult Syrian officials on ways of defusing tensions in west Beirut.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, who arrived back in Amman Saturday after a two-week lecture tour of the U.S., kisses Prince Hamzah at the airport as His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Hamzah and Her Highness Princess Alia (second from left) look on (Petra photo)

Majesty King Hussein, Prince Hamzah and Her Highness Princess Alia (second from left) look on (Petra photo)

Queen returns from U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned to Amman Saturday after a two-week lecture tour of the United States.

During the tour, the Queen delivered a number of speeches to various gatherings, including World Affairs Councils, the Commonwealth Club of California and the Arab-American Affairs Council in Chicago. She also addressed a gathering in Washington of the wives of U.S. congressmen, both Republican and Democrat.

In her speeches the Queen, who was given standing ovations on several occasions by the audience, spoke about the Palestinian problem, the consequences of the unconditional U.S. support of Israel, Israel's violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and called for a deeper American understanding of the Middle East problem.

The Queen also criticised the U.S. policy in the Middle East, which she said contradicts the American principles of freedom and personal liberties as cited in the U.S. constitution.

She explained Jordan's stand towards the Palestinian issue and reiterated the Kingdom's calls for Middle East peace based on the recognition of the

inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

The Queen called on the American people to understand the real dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the sufferings of the Palestinian people. Force is not the solution to the Middle East conflict, she said and pointed out that five wars have been fought in the region and instead of solving the problem the wars have further complicated the issue.

The unrestrained and unconditional support the U.S. provides to Israel, the Queen said, helps the Jewish state to continue its violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people by building more settlements and increasing its militarism.

The Queen was welcomed upon her arrival at Amman airport on Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein, His Highness Prince Mohammad, members of the royal family, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets and senior officials.

Information Minister Laila Sharaf, who was also on a visit to the U.S., returned with the Queen.

Explosive device goes off at Amman hotel car park

AMMAN (Petra) — A small explosive charge went off inside the parking lot of the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Saturday morning causing little damage and slight injury to two persons.

A statement by the Ministry of Interior said that at 10:27 a.m. a small explosive device planted behind the hotel's outer wall went off, smashing the windows of two parked cars and damaging the front glass door of the Arab Bank branch near the entrance to the hotel.

Flying glass slightly injured a man and his daughter who were walking along the pavement adjoining the car park's wall and no other damages or casualties were caused, the statement said.

The explosive charge was planted one and a half metre from the eastern entrance to the hotel parking area, the statement added.

Indian police launch hunt for Punjab rail saboteurs

NEW DELHI (R) — A village headman was killed by unidentified attackers in Punjab state as police launched a manhunt for saboteurs who blew up a railway line, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Saturday.

The news agency said the headman had witnessed the murder of four policemen by extremists in the Kathurthala village in the state's Kapurthala district last July. It said the attack occurred late Friday night.

The attackers escaped after an exchange of gunfire with a nearby police patrol in which electricity lines were cut, plunging the area into darkness, PTI quoted official sources as saying.

Hundreds of train passengers escaped injury early Friday when a bomb blast uprooted a section of track but failed to derail three trains passing the southern Punjab town of Bhatinda.

PTI quoted Bhatinda District Magistrate A.K. Misra as saying authorities had identified extremists responsible for the blast. Police reinforcements fanned out through the area Saturday to track down the saboteurs.

An outlawed Sikh students' group, meanwhile, claimed that police have arrested more than 400 activists and said their parents were being harassed. Police say 107 have been arrested since the militant All-India Sikh Students' Federation (AISF) was banned last Monday for fanning tension.

Pakistani students take five army men hostage

KARACHI (R) — Students protesting against a Pakistan government ban on their unions took five military men hostage here Saturday and threatened to burn 10 hijacked buses if authorities did not free arrested colleagues, their leaders said.

No official comment was immediately available.

The student leaders said five army personnel in civilian clothes were kidnapped from a military vehicle near Karachi University after a clash between about 200 students and more than 100 policemen.

They said the policemen, in plain clothes, had been hiding in bushes near the university before the clash and used batons and tear gas in the clash. The students responded by hurling stones.

The student leaders said 10 government buses hijacked earlier in the day would be burned if colleagues arrested during protests against the union ban were not freed. They did not say what they would do with the hostages.

They said the police severely beat two students Saturday and took away four others and four motorcycles.

There was no immediate confirmation of this from police.

An estimated 100 students were arrested in Karachi during the protests against the union ban which military ruler General Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq has said was imposed to maintain a peaceful atmosphere for national elections he has promised to hold by next March.

Gen. Zia said earlier this month the ban was irreversible and protests would achieve nothing.

A military court in the North-West Frontier Province capital of Peshawar sentenced several students to be flogged after members of the right-wing Islamic Jamiat-i-Talaba (ITT) student organisation disrupted an outdoor rally addressed by him on March 12.

El Salvador marks death of archbishop

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador marked the fourth anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero Saturday, the eve of presidential elections which many Roman Catholic church leaders view with considerable scepticism.

As an unusually vitriolic election campaign ended, the church held memorial ceremonies for the man whose assassination some historians consider the point of no return in the civil war that has been tearing El Salvador apart since 1980.

Archbishop Romero, an outspoken critic of human rights abuses, was shot dead by a sniper as he was saying mass on March 24 of that year.

His death has been widely blamed on extreme rightists who objected to his calls for social justice.

The Catholic church has publicly condemned guerrilla attempts to disrupt Sunday's elections, its leaders make no secret of their scepticism about the benefits of the poll.

Ricardo Urioste, number three in the church hierarchy here, said recently that holding the elections was like trying to build a house by constructing the roof first. "We are seeing the symbols of democracy but there is no substance," he said.

This view contrasts with that of the United States, which portrays the ballot as an exercise in pluralistic democracy.

Anti-election stand hurts Salvadoran rebel movement, page 4

Salvadoran army clashes with rebels, page 8

Reagan says he opposes embassy move

RABAT (R) — President Reagan told King Hassan of Morocco in a message published Saturday his administration was actively opposed to legislation proposed by Congress to transfer the U.S. embassy in Israel to occupied Jerusalem.

He said the U.S. government's position remain unchanged. As he had affirmed in his Middle East peace initiative in September 1982, "Jerusalem must remain undivided, but its final status must be defined by negotiation."

King Hassan, chairman of the Arab and Islamic summits and of the Jerusalem Committee set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference, had urged Washington not to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv, saying it would be condoning Israel's acquisition of territory by force.

Mr. Reagan faces a tough campaign mounted by a number of U.S. congressmen supporting the proposed move. Several Arab leaders have urged the U.S. president not to allow the transfer.

France to withdraw MNF unit in Beirut

PARIS (R) — France announced Saturday that its 1,250-man contingent in the Multi-National Force (MNF) would leave Beirut by the end of the month.

France is the last of the four countries which participated in the force to retain troops in the Lebanese capital.

The Ministry of Defence, in a communique, said the pull-out of the contingent and its replacement with elements designated by the Lebanese government would be completed by March 31.

Informed sources said they expected the withdrawal to start this weekend.

France sent its troops to join the four-nation force in September 1982. The United States, Italy and Britain pulled their contingents out of Beirut last month.

The sources said the French withdrawal would probably be gradual to avoid any signs of a hasty departure. They said the French had already shifted a large amount of logistic equipment.

French officials had criticised what they saw as the precipitate

withdrawals of the U.S., British and Italian contingents in Beirut, not co-ordinated with the Lebanese authorities and factions.

"This (French) contingent will leave Beirut with honour, its mission fulfilled, strengthened by the esteem and the friendship of all the components of the Lebanese people," the French statement said Saturday.

The decision to withdraw the French force was announced in Washington Friday by President Francois Mitterrand.

The French units arrived in Beirut in late September, 1982, after the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps, and the force has varied from 1,100 to 2,000 men. French troops also serve in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The force lost 88 killed and about 100 wounded. A suicide truck blew up a French barracks last Oct. 23 within moments of a similar attack on the U.S. headquarters, killed 58 French soldiers and wounding 15.

Freij asks U.S. to be 'fair with everybody' in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The mayor of Bethlehem appealed on Friday to the United States to be "fair with everybody" in the Middle East and get both Arabs and Israelis to the peace table.

Meanwhile, Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maksoud told reporters that Americans were witnessing "a pathetic sight" as U.S. Democratic Party presidential candidates compete for Jewish support in this country.

Elias Freij, a Greek Orthodox Arab who is the only remaining elected mayor still in power on the occupied West Bank, told a news conference arranged by Foreign Policy magazine that American credibility as a fair mediator in the Middle East is in doubt because of U.S. support of Israel.

"The United States government has to play the role of a broker. It is the only one that can bring both

parties to the conference table," Mr. Freij said. "I appeal to you, ladies and gentlemen, to be fair with everybody, to look into our grievances with an objective mind."

He said he favoured President Ronald Reagan's 1982 peace initiative as "a good basis for negotiations to find a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Israel had rejected the plan outright because they don't want "to withdraw from one inch" of West Bank territory, he said. "We challenge Israel for peace."

Mr. Maksoud told a separate news conference that in the campaign for the Democratic pre-

sidential nomination, Former Vice President Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart were "falling all over each other" to show "readiness to underwrite whatever Israel wants, does or intends to do."

"We in the Arab World are genuinely sick and tired of being the whipping boy and the target of cheap shots at our national aspirations, internationally recognised rights and legitimate interests," Mr. Maksoud said.

Mr. Freij said he was less concerned about the U.S. campaign promises because political candidates always "give promises by the millions." The main worry, he said, was the lack of progress toward a peace settlement.

"I can say, coming from Bethlehem and the Holy Land, that people there are really tired of this crazy situation," Mr. Freij said.

"The Arabs are tired of it. I believe most of the Israeli people are as well tired of it."

On the West Bank, he said, "There is a near consensus" among Palestinians that negotiations, not warfare, is the way to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

He said he and other West Bank leaders who had met in Jordan recently with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat had gotten across to him the message that "time is running out" and that negotiations must be conducted to bring peace to the Middle East.

Mr. Freij said he had a "very tight and heavy schedule" in Washington and New York, meeting with "many influential people" including administrative officials, but he would not elaborate.

Jackson aide meets Arafat

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat conferred in Tunis Friday with an adviser to the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, the PLO news agency Wafa reported.

It said Robert Brown expressed the support of Rev. Jackson and all black Americans for the Palestinian cause and the PLO.

For his part, Mr. Arafat wished Rev. Jackson, who recently called for an independent Palestinian state, success in the presidential campaign.

The meeting was attended by Hatem Hussein, deputy head of the PLO office in Washington, the agency said, but gave no further details. Mr. Brown himself could not be reached for comment.

Egyptian minister to fly to Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali flies to Baghdad Sunday for talks on the Gulf war and other Middle East developments, Cairo newspapers reported in Saturday editions.

The semi-official daily Al-Ahram said Mr. Ali would deliver a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak explaining Cairo efforts to help end the Iran-Iraq war. The newspaper did not elaborate.

Egypt has repeatedly urged Iran to respond to Iraq's call to resolve the two countries' conflict peacefully. Egypt supports Iraq and provides it with weapons and military equipment.

The weekly Akhbar Al-Yom said Mr. Ali discussions would also deal with other Middle East developments and the recent air raid on Omdurman.

Turkey holds local elections today

ANKARA (R) — Local elections throughout Turkey Sunday will amount to a crucial test of strength for the government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal — the first civilian administration here since the 1980 military coup.

Parties barred from last November's general election have all mounted big campaigns to defeat the three parliamentary parties and to re-inforce their claim that the November poll was false.

This has turned the normally parochial process of electing to office some 70,000 local officials into a hard-fought nationwide campaign by the conservative prime minister and all party leaders.

Latest opinion polls suggest Mr. Ozal's Motherland Party is set to repeat its win in the general election with around 38 per cent of the popular vote compared with

45 per cent in November. They show the non-parliamentary Social Democrat Party (SODEP) and the right-wing True Path Party running second and third respectively with support now crumbling for the parliamentary right-wing Nationalist Democracy Party (NDP) and the mildly left Populists.

The independent daily Milliyet gave the Motherland Party 37.8 per cent, SODEP 27.9 per cent and True Path 12.1 — broadly reflecting the trend of recent similar polls.

The Populists came next with 10.2 per cent and the NDP, strongly backed last year by the then ruling generals, was given only 4.7 per cent. The small, non-parliamentary rightist Welfare Party was last with 3.3 per cent and the other groups were not placed.

SODEP and True Path were among a number of groups barred by the military from contesting the general election because of their links with parties active before the 1980 coup.

But both now claim that they, and not the new parliamentary parties, truly reflect the left and right mainstays of Turkish politics.

If one of them wins, or if their combined vote exceeds the sum of the parliamentary parties vote, then political analysts say Mr. Ozal will face strong pressure for another general election at an early date.

The prime minister, in fact, has said that early elections are possible if his party does not come first and acknowledges that the local vote Sunday amounts to a battle for his credibility.

U.S. military presence in Gulf unwarranted

KUWAIT (AP) — The Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington was quoted here Monday as rejecting all contentions that Iran posed a threat to the Gulf states and stressing that a U.S. military presence in the region was unwarranted.

Sheikh Saud Al-Sabah also told the newspaper Al-Wakeel in an interview that Iran was "not capable either militarily or politically" of closing the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic southern outlet of the oil-tanker lane.

"What we hear from American officials and media of fears about the strait are only figments of imagination," he said.

"All that's raised about the closure of the strait and prospects of the Gulf countries confronting an assault or invasion or expansionist designs by Iran are all things we do

not feel and only hear about from the Western media," Sheikh Saud said.

"We have no fear at all from our two Muslim nations and our relations are good with the big neighbour Iran with whom we have mutual and joint interests."

He said the presence of U.S. forces in the region on the "pretext" of defending the strait was unacceptable. "The matter concerns us and we are capable of solving it," he said.

If the Gulf war, now in its 43rd month, had repercussions on the interests of other states "that does not give others an excuse to interfere in our affairs," he insisted.

The U.S. administration is "committed to guaranteeing freedom of navigation in the Hormuz through which about 20 per cent of the non-Communist world's

supply of crude oil passes.

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) which includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait, is geared to development of a collective defence strategy in face of the possible fallout from the Gulf war.

The GCC states are also collectively and individually pressing for an end to the hostilities between Iran and Iraq.

Sheikh Saud stressed that the GCC states have taken positive steps on the road to collective defence of their region.

He said that the American Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) surveillance planes in Saudi Arabia "perhaps formed part of this joint defence system because security of these countries is collective."

Libya seeks urgent meeting of U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya Friday accused the United States of directing against it hostile and provocative acts and asked for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to consider this "serious threat to the peace."

A U.N. spokesman said council members would meet on Monday afternoon to discuss privately how to proceed with the complaint and an earlier one directed against Libya by Sudan.

The United States sent AWACS surveillance aircraft to Egypt after Sudan charged Libya with aggression, alleging that a Libyan plane bombed Omdurman, leaving five Sudanese dead.

Libya sent a letter to the president of the Security Council on Tuesday complaining about "the aggressive practices of the United States administration ... and blatant United States intervention."

Before the text of that communication was published, officials said it contained a request for a council meeting. In fact, Libya only declared "its right to request the convening of the Security Council at the appropriate time."

In Friday's letter, Awad Burwin, the Libyan representative, referred to the earlier communication "in which the at-

tention of the Security Council was drawn to the serious ongoing events resulting from the dispatch of American weapons and aircraft to Libya with the intention of spying on Libyan territory and preparing to launch aggression against it."

He went on to "Accordingly, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests the convening of an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the deteriorating situation as a result of hostile and provocative American acts directed against the Jamahiriya, which represent a serious threat to the peace and security of the region and of the world."

Libya has denied the Sudanese charge of aggression, but the dispatch of AWACS aircraft to Egypt was announced officially by the American authorities.

In Tuesday's letter, Mr. Burwin said the Americans were conducting aggressive actions against Libya, "including continuous violations of Libyan airspace and territorial waters, the economic boycott and misleading information, campaigns."

He also said that the United States "has sought to create a schism in the Arab homeland and to provoke the Arab states one against the other."

Libyan sources said Libya wanted its complaint dealt with separately from that of Sudan.

Eritrean rebels say 4,500 Ethiopian soldiers killed

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Eritrean guerrillas fighting against the Ethiopian government claimed on Saturday they killed 4,500 government troops and captured more than 2,450 others in a five-day offensive this week.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLA), military wing of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, made the claim in a statement issued here.

The statement said the offensive between Monday and Friday took place in the Sahel area, at the northeastern corner of Eritrea, Ethiopia's northernmost province.

Eritrea, a former Italian colony on the Red Sea, was administered by Britain from World War II until 1952 when it was federated with Ethiopia under a United Nations resolution.

Iran to complete 2 reactors, paper says

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The Iranian regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was reported here Saturday to have approached West Germany to help complete the construction of two nuclear reactors.

The independent newspaper Al-Qabas said the reactors were begun in 1976 by the late Shah of Iran, with costs estimated at \$3.5 billion and a combined capacity of 2,400 megawatts.

Citing no sources, the paper claimed that the Bonn government's "initial response was positive" and that a West German team was scheduled to go to Tehran early this year to make an offer to Tehran. The paper did not say if the team visited the Iranian capital.

The agreement which the Khomeini regime sought was a revival of one signed in 1974 between the government of the Shah and the West German Company "KWU"

for building two reactors at the Gulf port of Bushehr, the paper said.

Work started on the project in 1976 but suspended after the Shah's overthrow by the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Al-Qabas said the Iranian government in the second half of last year asked the German concern to complete construction of at least one of the two reactors, but the company's response was that construction would be started only after Iran's war with Iraq was ended. The company was ready to conduct studies however, the paper said.

In Washington the State Department Friday took a relaxed view of a possible Soviet sale of a nuclear reactor to Iraq, noting both countries were committed to safeguards against diversion of nuclear materials for a bomb.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg, responding to questions, said so far the Soviet-Iraq project involved only a preliminary siting study for a nuclear power plant.

The Washington Post reported earlier Friday from Baghdad, quoting Iraqi officials, that a contract for the first stage of a nuclear power project for electricity purposes was signed with Moscow.

Mr. Romberg said: "It is significant that both the Soviet Union and Iraq are parties to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty under which they are committed to placing international safeguards inspections on any power reactors exported to Iraq, as well as all other nuclear facilities in that country."

In 1981 Israel bombed a French-supplied nuclear research facility being built in Iraq, claiming it could be used to develop a nuclear bomb.

Rumsfeld confers with Numeiri

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Donald Rumsfeld, President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East envoy, conferred Saturday with President Jaafar Numeiri, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said.

SUNA gave no details of the meeting, and said Mr. Rumsfeld left by air immediately afterward for an undisclosed destination. In Cairo, the Egyptian state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) said in a Khartoum-dated report that Mr. Rumsfeld, delivered to Mr. Numeiri a message from Mr. Reagan.

MENA said Mr. Numeiri and Mr. Rumsfeld discussed the situation in Sudan following the March 16 raid on the Khartoum suburb of Omdurman.

Shamir, Peres call for clean election campaign

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and opposition leader Shimon Peres both called Saturday for a clean campaign for the forthcoming general election, saying there should be none of the violence and bitterness of the last contest three years ago.

In separate interviews with state radio, they said they would seek to restrain their followers and concentrate on issues rather than personalities.

Last Thursday parliament voted for an early poll. The exact election date will be decided next week.

Mr. Peres is anxious to hold the ballot in May or June to capitalise on the wide lead his Labour Party now has in public opinion polls. Mr. Shamir would prefer to delay them until the autumn in hopes of an economic recovery.

"My hope is that the campaign will be a clean one without personal slanders and with the em-

basis on the issues which will determine the future life of the country," Mr. Shamir said Saturday.

Mr. Peres said: "Let us try to agree on an election campaign that will be restrained, fair and more like a seminar than a wrestling ring."

The June 1981 election, in which the right-wing Likud Party led by then Prime Minister Menachem Begin won a narrow victory over Labour, was the most acrimonious the country had ever known.

Likud supporters broke up Labour rallies while acclaiming their own leader with cries of "Begin, king of Israel." At one point, Mr. Begin went on television to appeal for calm and for the right of his opponents to enjoy free speech.

This year's election will be the first since 1948 in which Mr. Begin will not run as head of his party. He had not been seen in public since resigning as prime minister

last September.

Israeli newspapers, eager to penetrate the mystery behind his seclusion, Friday carried interviews with the 12-year-old girl who was allowed to enter his home last week to deliver a traditional present for the Purim festival.

"He was lying in bed covered by a blanket even though it was midday," she said.

Mr. Shamir called on politicians not to make Israel's war dead in Lebanon an issue.

He was responding to former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman who last week accused the government of throwing away the lives of 600 Israeli troops in an unjust war.

"In Israel's wars throughout the years, we have paid a heavy price in loss of life," Mr. Shamir said.

"Never was the number of fallen a subject for political struggles. We never before counted the dead as an argument to convince or



The leaders of Israel's opposition Labour Party, Shimon Peres (left), and the deputy leader, Yitzhak Rabin (right) smile as they leave the Israeli parliament building Friday (AP wirephoto)

prevent democracy for their own ends.

Political observers said more heated exchanges were likely this week in the discussions on fixing the election date.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz	639, 720, 1413 KHz
16:30 Main Channel	06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Back Family
16:45 Cartoons	06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Short Takes 07:45 Letter from America
17:10 Cartoons	08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the Ailing
17:35 Children's Programme	08:45 World News 09:09 News About Britain 09:15 From Our Own Country 09:30 The Seven Deadly Sins 09:45 Recording of the Week 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 Letterbox 13:30 Baker's Half Dozen 14:00 The Week 14:45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 15:00 World News 15:09 Commentary 15:15 Good Books 15:30 Billy Budd 15:45 The Saudi News Request Show 16:30 The Doctors 17:00 Radio News 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Pop The Question 21:00 After Hours 21:15 Radio Theatre: New Life in a New World 22:00 World News 22:09 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 I Know It's Here Somewhere 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:09 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 The Friday Murder
FOREIGN CHANNEL	VOICE OF AMERICA
17:30 French Programme	MV 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 13740, 13925 & 15210
19:00 News in French	06:00 VOA Morning News on the business hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; features 17:00-17:10 New Horizons and New Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Sunday Report
19:15 Le Theatre de Bouvray	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 English League Cup final: Liverpool v. Everton	
22:00 News in English	
22:15 Best Seller — Last Ep.	
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parity on 9560 KHz, SW	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsdesk	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:30 News Summary	
09:00 Morning Show	
11:00 Pop Session	
12:00 News Summary	
12:30 Pop Session	
13:00 News Summary	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:30 News Summary	
15:00 Concert Hour	
16:00 News Summary	
16:30 News Summary	
16:45 Old Favourites	
17:00 Listener's Choice	
18:00 News Summary	
18:30 Jazz Hour	
19:00 Newsdesk	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	
21:30 News Summary	
22:00 Evening Show	
22:30 News Summary	
23:00 Evening Show	
23:30 News Headlines	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"Le Maisons Limousines Des Origines a Nos Jours", by La Societe Descriptive et de la France Catholique Centre.

Paintings by Ayad Al Nimr at the Alia Art Gallery.

Stamps exhibition at the British Council.

Italian Architecture exhibition at the University of Jordan.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7

American Centre 44371

American Centre Library 41520

British Council 36147-8

French Cultural Centre 37009

Goethe Institute 41993

Soviet Cultural Centre 44203

Turkish Cultural Centre 39777

Y.W.C.A. 41793

Y.W.M.C.A. 664251

Amman Municipal Library 36111

University of Jordan Library 84355

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 130 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 130 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Leith, 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Red-croix) Jabbal Amman, 41559.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71351.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyya, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

06:11 Sunrise

05:33 Sunrise

11:43 Dhuhr

15:12 Asr

17:52 Maghrib

19:15 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 52325, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)

07:05 Jeddah (SV)

07:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

07:30 Damascus (RJ)

07:30 Jeddah (RJ)

07:45 Jeddah (SV)

UNRWA training centres on West Bank reopen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Training has resumed for most trainees at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) three residential training centres in the West Bank.

Training had been suspended indefinitely on Feb. 19 after several periods of unrest at the centres when trainees frequently boycotted classes in protest against the comprehensive examination introduced in 1981 by the Jordanian Ministry of Education but deferred for two years for implementation in the West Bank.

Studies were resumed progressively at the following centres: Ramallah Women's Training Centre (RWTC) on March 4, Kalandia Vocational Training Centre (KVTC) on March 11 and Ramallah Men's Teacher Training Centre (RMTTC) for first year trainees on March 19.

Resumption of studies for second year trainees at RMTTC is still under consideration.

Prior to the trainees resuming their studies, they were called, along with their parents or guardians, to sign undertakings binding them to apply themselves to their studies without interruptions and so complete the programme requirements. Failing this they would be dismissed.

The trainees and their parents or guardians were also informed that UNRWA will not compel them to sit for the comprehensive examination and that they must bear full and personal responsibility for that decision themselves at the completion of their training.

Some trainees, who had seriously misbehaved, were issued with final warnings in this regard. The centres are now functioning quietly, an UNRWA spokesman was reported as saying.



HASSAN ATTENDS EXERCISES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday talks with officers and soldiers of the Third Royal Armoured Division during a visit he made to the army unit which also staged training exercises Saturday. Prince Hassan also took part in discussions on military matters and distributed prizes to officers and soldiers who took part in Saturday's exercises (Petra photo)

3 jailed in bribery attempt

AMMAN (Petra) — The Military Governor has endorsed the Martial Law Court's decision to sentence three people to prison terms ranging between one and two months while imposing a fine of JD 10 for offering bribes to public servants who refused to accept them.

Another person was sentenced to pay a fine of JD 200 with a one year prison sentence to come into operation if he defaults.

Eight other people have been sentenced to pay fines ranging between JD 40 and 150 or go to prison for a period ranging between 80 and 300 days if they fail to pay the fines for violating the Ministry of Supply regulations.

Another person was sentenced to a fine of JD 200 after having been convicted of offering for sale foodstuffs which were not suitable for human consumption and for not conforming to the standard specifications.

The produce in question was destroyed by the authorities.

The court also sentenced another person to six months in prison and to pay a fine of JD 10 which will be replaced by 20 days in prison if he defaults.

King meets Arab cities body chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the Royal Court Saturday with the secretary-general of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) Abdul Aziz Al Adasani who presented King Hussein with a copy of a book on the architecture and history of Jerusalem.

The book, written by Public Works Minister Rayef Nijm and a group of Jordanian scholars, is entitled "Treasures of Jerusalem".

Mr. Adasani also Saturday met Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat to whom he also presented a copy of the book which is an historical and archaeological document on Jerusalem.

At a meeting, held earlier with the Amman mayor, Mr. Adasani was briefed on the history of Amman and its topographical nature.

Mayor Rawabdeh also briefed his guest on the Amman Municipality's experience in providing public services and projects.

Mr. Adasani, who arrived in Amman Friday evening on a three-day visit, is expected to hold talks with a number of officials.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with the Secretary-General of the Arab Cities Organisation, Abdul Aziz Al Adasani (Petra photo)

Non-Jordanians can reclaim social security payments, amendment says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Non-Jordanians who have completed at least a two-year period of work will be able to end their commitment to the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and receive the money they have paid in a lump sum provided they leave the country for good, in accordance with an amendment to the (SSC) law announced here Saturday.

The amendment, to come into force as of May 1, also provides for the paying of compensation to non-Jordanians who have worked for less than two years here, however the money will be transferred to their new addresses abroad.

Meanwhile, SSC Director-General Farhi 'Obeid said that SSC law could be applied to Jordanians working in the Arabian Gulf following the completion of a study on the subject.

At present a total of 305,000 people in Jordan are covered in July after the inclusion of institutions which employ up to 10 persons, Mr. 'Obeid said.

He said all people in the country are expected to be covered by the SSC by the middle of 1985.

Mr. 'Obeid Saturday spoke about the SSC law and benefits at a meeting with 20 SSC employees who are taking part in a course on the application of SSC laws in Jordan.

The course has been organised in co-operation with the Institute of Public Administration.

Exhibition on Palestine opened at Yarmouk U.

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President, Dr. Adnan Badran, opened at the university library Saturday an exhibition on Palestine.

On display were photographs, paintings and posters depicting the massacres committed by Israel against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon.

Publications and books dealing with the Palestinian cause and the Israeli-Arab conflict, in addition to national costumes, are also on display.

Meanwhile an exhibition of Jordanian-French archaeological excavations will open at the university Monday.

The four-day exhibition will include artefacts, antiquities and paintings in addition to recent archaeological discoveries from various parts of the country.

Publications and books dealing with the Palestinian cause and the Israeli-Arab conflict, in addition to national costumes, are also on display.

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Hassan may address top talks on Israeli colonialism

TUNIS (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is expected to address an international symposium on Zionist colonialism in the occupied Arab territories, due to be held in August in Washington.

Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Mohammad Al Farra said that an invitation to Prince Hassan will be sent soon to request his participation in the symposium which is to be attended by more than 100 prominent figures from the Western world.

These will include scholars, and academics from European and American universities and organisations in addition to various governmental and non-governmental agencies concerned with the Palestinian issue, Dr. Farra said.

"Prince Hassan's presence will be a great asset to the symposium because of his well-known endeavours to expose Israeli settlements policies and their dangers," Dr. Farra said.

He said that the participants will discuss Israel's drive to build new colonies and settlements, to Judaize the Arab territory and obliterate the Arab character of Jerusalem.

In addition, the delegates will discuss the adverse effects of Israel's settlements on peace efforts, the various forms of resistance to the Israeli policies and other related topics, Dr. Farra pointed out.

"The symposium is designed to expose to the world Israel's illegal policies and to familiarise western public opinion with the true nature of Israel's colonialist policies which are being carried out in defiance of international principles and laws, Dr. Farra explained.

Arab population talks to discuss Mexico summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A regional conference on population in the Arab World will open Sunday here under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The conference, which is being convened to prepare for the International Conference on Population to be held in Mexico between Aug. 6 and 13, is being organised by the Arab League and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA).

The objectives of the five-day regional meeting are, according to the organisers, "to formulate a clear and concrete population position towards the present and future population conditions and problems, within the context of the development efforts made with a view to improving the economic and social life in the Arab World."

The outcome and recommendations, the organisers hope, will represent the region's contribution to the Mexico summit, where they want to have "a considerable impact on the review of the world population plan of action."

All Arab states have been invited to attend and are expected to send two delegates. Jordan will be represented at the conference, which is being financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, by the Royal Scientific Society.

ECWA regional executive secretary, Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Al Attar, said that the delegates will also review achievements in population affairs realised by world organisations since the convening of the international conference on population in Bucharest, Romania, in 1974.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Railway chief to leave for Frankfurt

AMMAN (Petra) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) will take part in an international conference on railways scheduled to be held in Frankfurt on March 27. Participants at the three-day conference will discuss issues related to developing railways in the world in general and those in Arab countries in particular. The corporation's director-general, Sabih Hamzi, leaves for Frankfurt Sunday to represent the corporation at the conference.

JCO man to discuss importing Iraqi bran

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) representative will visit Baghdad during the coming two days to follow-up the procedures for shipping 2,000 tonnes of Iraqi bran to Jordan according to a JCO spokesman. He said the bran will be used as fodder for livestock and poultry.

Ajlouni visits northern hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni Saturday visited hospitals in Zarqa, Ramtha, Mafrqa as well as the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and Ma'ad Ibn Jabal and Abu Obaida hospitals in the northern Jordan Valley. Dr. Ajlouni met officials in these hospitals and urged them to increase their efforts to offer better services to citizens. Accompanying the minister on these tours was the ministry under-secretary Dr. Suleiman Al Subeiri.

Manuscripts exhibition to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Manuscripts Exhibition opens at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Sunday at 5:00 p.m. The exhibition is being organised by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives in co-operation with Austrian embassy in Amman on the occasion of national book week.

Agricultural show begins on university campus

AMMAN (Petra) — An agricultural exhibition, organised by the students at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, was opened at the campus Saturday.

The three-day exhibition includes wings containing plants and artificial flowers, birds, agricultural machinery, organic soil and books in addition to a special section for students' creative innovations in the agricultural and related field.

Also opened at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at

the university Saturday was an exhibition of contemporary Italian architecture.

On display at the five-day exhibition, organised in co-operation between the faculty and the Italian embassy in Amman, were works by Italian architects from 1962 to 1982 in addition to special designs for bridges, airports and Islamic centres in Rome.

Attending the opening ceremony were the university president and his deputies, a number of faculty deans as well as some of the staff of the Italian embassy in Amman.

Red Crescent head leaves for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, is due to leave for Sana'a Sunday to take part in a meeting of the Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent societies due to open on April 1.

Delegates to the three-day conference will discuss ways of promoting the work of their societies and their activities, a draft agreement between Arab societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross on relief work, and the agenda of a peace conference due to be held in Sweden and Finland in September, Dr. Abu Qoura said.

U.N. meeting seeks to involve women more

By Affah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The regional meeting of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), held in Amman, Saturday concluded its two-day seminar.

The meeting, which was chaired by assistant secretary-general and assistant executive director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, included nine UNFPA deputy representatives and programme officers in the Middle East and Mediterranean region.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Sadik said that the aim of the seminar was to bring the representatives together and to discuss common issues in order to resolve any outstanding problems and hence to make the programmes that UNFPA finance more effective and useful to the countries of the region.

"It was an internal staff seminar dealing with policy issues emanating from UNFPA governing bodies as well as issues related to programming, including monitoring and implementation programmes," Dr. Sadik added that the seminar also dealt with the allocation of funds and the UNFPA's relationship with the various U.N. agencies.

"Large part of our projects, almost 70 per cent in fact, are implemented by using the executive services of the U.N. agencies," she said.

During the seminar, emerging

issues in the region were also discussed. "The type of programmes needed and the experiences gained in the field were discussed to see what kind of strategy should be implemented. Also different innovations and activities in the respective member countries were studied to see if they could be of value to other countries," she said.

UNFPA personnel issues and administrative budgets was also discussed at the two-day conference.

"We are going to present to our governing council with a paper suggesting that the field offices should be integrated into the administrative budget," she gave as an example.

Dr. Sadik said that the seminar was conducted in Amman because it is accessible to the members and all those who participated in this seminar will stay on to attend the regional population seminar which will start Sunday.

Women's involvement

Dr. Sadik pointed out that UNFPA will focus on women's involvement in population and development activities in the field of maternal and child health care as well as in family planning.

"The role and status of women is very important in all societies and hence should be promoted and focused upon," she said.

Dr. Sadik said that the UNFPA has carried out a survey in all the developing countries on women's organisations, leaders and even governmental departments that

are concerned with the involvement of women in population and development activities.

"Having identified these women's organisations and institutions, we plan to convene a series of seminars and workshops to inform them of the various aspects of development, such as family planning, and acquaint them with women's rights in general."

Dr. Sadik pointed out that UNFPA has held one seminar in Tunisia, which was sponsored by the Arab Women's Union, during which many Middle Eastern countries and Muslim countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia also participated.

She added that a similar one is now convening in New York, which includes African countries and a selected number of people from other regions.

Another UNFPA plan for the future is to hold an expert group meeting during which a paper on UNFPA strategy for the involvement of women in population questions and development will be discussed "to advise us on whether the strategy that we are suggesting is in their view helpful and useful, as well as to give us the kind of approach that we should follow."

To that effect, UNFPA has requested all its field offices to contact women organisations and inform individuals to collect the necessary data.

Working in the UNFPA for 12 years, Dr. Sadik said that, based on her experiences in this kind of work, in many developing countries women do not possess know-

ledge about their rights and the family laws

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Responsible Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAN**
 Managing Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAN**
 Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAN**
 Deputy Editor: **MOHAMMAD AMAN**
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 Telephone: **MOHAMMAD AMAN**
 Address: **MOHAMMAD AMAN**
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Can election winners claim popular mandate?

By Fahed Fanek

IT IS gratifying that the people of Jordan, being the source of all authorities, have been asked to express an opinion on their public affairs, by way of electing representatives to fill eight vacancies in the resurrected parliament, which was elected 17 years ago.

Many politicians, individuals and institutions, inside Jordan and abroad, must be busy trying to analyse the results of March 12 elections, interpret and evaluate the trends underlying their outcome.

But... to what extent were these elections indicative of the real popular trends, and consequently reflect the overall national will of the Jordanian people at grass root level?

Due to the unprecedented huge number of candidates, no proper conclusion can be drawn with a reasonable degree of certainty.

The elections were of course 100 per cent democratic and free. It is absolutely true that the government did not influence, or attempt to influence, the elections in any way, yet these elections nevertheless drifted strongly against the moderate candidates acceptable to the unorganised majority.

Results of elections are meaningful if every school of thought was represented by one candidate, but it is not meaningful if the organised

minority extremes were represented by one candidate each, while the unorganised overwhelming majority in the centre was represented by more than 20 or 30 candidates as happened in the recent elections.

Take Amman as an example: The winner got some 18 per cent of the cast votes, or seven per cent of the registered vote, or 3.5 per cent of those who have the right to register for voting. Nonetheless, he was described as a landslide victory.

When the votes are scattered among numerous candidates, the tribesman or the trend-candidate with a small devoted

minority stands a chance to win. The majority will be thinly divided among many candidates who will fail, despite the fact that many of them could be more acceptable to the majority than the winner, and might beat the winner in a two-man contest election.

The candidate at the extreme right or left, naturally attracts almost the same number of votes, whether the elections were a two-man run or among 30 hopefuls.

The research conducted by the New York Academy of Sciences revealed that "when there are more than two candidates running, it is entirely possible that the candidate

acceptable to most voters will not win". If that is the case when the candidates are more than two, what would it be like when they are 16, 19, 27, or 36?

More often than not, moderate candidates split the centrist vote, and more extreme candidates take out victory with only minority support. Thus the Republican Party nominated Barry Goldwater, an extreme conservative as their presidential candidate in 1964, and the Democratic Party nominated George McGovern, an extreme liberal in 1972. Each nominee had a strong minority support within his party, and each was rejected out of hand

in the general elections of one to one.

It was noted that 82 per cent of the voters in Amman, 70 per cent in Irbid, 87 per cent in Karak and 74 per cent in Balqa did not get the candidate they voted for. In general, 76.3 per cent of all popular vote across the country went to candidates who did not win. The share of the winners was 23.7 per cent of the actual voters, or 9.1 per cent of the registered voters, or 6.2 per cent of those who have the right to vote!

The winner of the pluralistic elections who may get a small fraction of the vote as happened in our elections can hardly claim a popular mandate.

Logic, anyone?

THE PARLIAMENTARY vote calling for early general elections in Israel sets in motion a process that could clear up the questions and doubts of many — ourselves included — about the exact play of political forces in Israel. We have heard many people within Israel suggest that the experience of the war in Lebanon has shocked many Israelis into realizing that their enormous faith in their own military might will never solve essentially political problems. We find it rather ironic that the Israelis, having been unable to subdue and totally pacify the Palestinians, they have ruled in a military occupation for some 17 years, have had to invade and occupy southern Lebanon under the pretext of driving Palestinian guerrillas away from Israel's northern border. Of course, the pretext is just that — a pretext, without basis in reality, for the northern border of Israel was as quiet as a Mediterranean holiday resort for the 11 months before Israel invaded Lebanon.

We are told by many people that there is change in Israeli society, that important numbers of Israelis have learned that only a negotiated political solution with the Palestinians, granting equal rights to Israelis and Palestinians, could ever resolve the problem in a durable and meaningful manner. Attempts to impose artificial solutions have failed recently, as we have seen from the Camp David formula for the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli-Lebanese treaty, the Israeli-backed Village Leagues and the Israeli-supported play armies and Disneyland republics of southern Lebanon. Military attacks and occupations also have not resolved the Palestine issue.

Will someone in Israel dare to suggest a political solution based on mutual and simultaneous recognition of Israeli and Palestinian national rights to self-determination, statehood, and dignity? It is a daring and perhaps naive hope, but it is probably the only logical alternative for both sides. The Israeli elections should tell us if anyone in Israel is attracted to logic and hope. Let us hope there is.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: No great change expected

THE MAJORITY vote which has dissolved the Israeli parliament, and the decision to hold early elections is the natural consequence of the policies of the Likud coalition.

The long series of shortcomings that led the Knesset to be dissolved is a proof of the failure of Israeli policy. Nevertheless, it should be kept in mind that it would be a great illusion to think that there will be a comprehensive change in the Israeli's policy after the elections, supposing that the Israeli Labour Party will come to power. The Israeli mentality does not differ in its anti-Arab strategy, even though tactical practices of various parties might look different.

We should not forget that Arab steadfastness in the occupied territories, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon, was an important factor that contributed to defeating the Israeli policy of the Likud era, and that Arabs have the ability to increase pressure on Israel regardless of who is in power. Such a stance demands that Arabs stand up to the level of the challenges. Only then would the Israeli policy-makers find no substitute for changing their political course in a way that takes new Arab realities into consideration.

Al Dustour: To whose benefit?

THE UNJUSTIFIABLE fighting and killing in west Beirut during the past two days should be condemned, because it was aimed at destroying one of the Lebanese national parties, whose distinguished role in resisting the Zionist invasion of Beirut in 1982 was evident. This should place a big question mark on the real motives behind this fighting, which aims at achieving one of the Zionist targets that Israel could not achieve through its invasion of Lebanon.

Hence, all queries gather around the reasons and implications of the events that took place in west Beirut during the last two days, starting with questioning the timing of the military campaign against the Murahitoun after dispersal of the Lausanne Conference, which failed to produce tangible results. It is also justifiable to wonder who the real beneficiary from weakening the Lebanese national front and creating divisions and over-sensitivities amongst its parties could be?

Sawt Al Shaab: Rumsfeld's tour

U.S. SPECIAL envoy to the Middle East Ronald Rumsfeld is currently on a visit to a number of countries in the region which seem to agree on one single point: Criticising American policy in the region for failing to meet any requirement that should have taken the region out of its crisis, for which the United States policy is responsible in the first place, with its complete partiality in support of aggression.

What is required from the United States in this region is to stop playing the role of an adversary of its people and to stop its persistent resistance to the region, people's practice of their right to self-determination. The U.S. is required to stop confiscating the role of the United Nations and considering this region as a field for its global hostilities in the struggle with the other world powers. All this is not much to ask, and the United States can do this even when busy with the presidential elections.

Moscow holds tough line towards U.S.

By Charles Bremner
 Reuters

MOSCOW — After hints of a spring thaw in the East-West atmosphere, the new Soviet leadership has made clear it is conducting business as usual on the foreign front and is not about to soften its hard line towards Washington.

Diplomats said that in the five weeks since Konstantin Chernenko succeeded Yuri Andropov, Moscow had apparently decided it had little to gain from conciliatory gestures in a U.S. election year and had opted for continuity.

"We saw some interesting signs when Mr. Chernenko first moved in, but they seem to have gone up in smoke in the past couple of weeks," one senior Western envoy said.

Diplomats have concluded that Mr. Chernenko has sought to impose his own style, less abrasive than Mr. Andropov's, but policy is being shaped by an experienced inner politburo group centred on Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov.

Many Moscow-based diplomats believe the Kremlin's overall strategy in coming months will be calculated with an eye firmly on the U.S. election.

"The one thing they are determined not to do is anything that could help Reagan get re-elected," one commented.

Soviet officials talking privately have made clear Moscow would prefer to deal with almost anyone in the White House rather than Mr. Reagan, blamed by Moscow for the icy state of East-West relations and the failure of nuclear arms talks.

The official media have moved with unprecedented speed to endorse the policies of Democratic contenders Walter Mondale and Gary Hart despite the Soviet ide-

ological view that U.S. elections offer no real choice to the people.

Given the Soviet view, diplomats said they expected the Kremlin to persist in its insistence that it was up to Washington to make the first move if there is to be any improvement in relations between the superpowers.

For both East and West the heart of the problem is still the impasse over U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms negotiations, despite a slight shift in emphasis towards issues such as chemical weapons control and the renewal of talks on troop reductions.

The Soviet Union walked out of Geneva talks on both European-based and international nuclear systems last November when NATO began installing new U.S. missiles in Europe.

Mr. Andropov accused Mr. Reagan of preparing to wage a European-based nuclear war and said the condition for a return to talks was U.S. "readiness to return to the situation before deployment."

U.S. and NATO leaders hoped Mr. Chernenko's arrival in office might clear the air, enabling the Kremlin to move away from the stalemate and move towards a compromise formula for renewing nuclear arms control talks.

At first it looked as though this might be the case.

American and European officials said they were encouraged by their contacts with the new leader, particularly by a 30-minute meeting he held with Vice-President George Bush after the Andropov funeral.

They also noted that Mr. Chernenko avoided citing the Andropov formula on the missiles and appeared to offer a more flexible approach to U.S.-Soviet relations.

But a series of speeches by Mr. Gromyko and other politburo members to a campaign for elections to the Supreme Soviet last last month made clear there had

been no shift in Moscow's condition for a return to nuclear talks.

In an address on March 2, Mr. Chernenko also returned to the Andropov formula on the missiles, and repeated charges that Washington was striving for global supremacy, although he tempered this with references to the "deep roots" of detente.

"A week later Politburo Member Geidar Aliyev, on a visit to Syria, denounced Washington for conducting aggressive and terrorist military methods and Marshal Ustinov launched sharp verbal attacks on the United States from India."

Diplomats said they read the message from the Kremlin's public and private statements to mean Moscow was seeking an improvement in the atmosphere, but would only match gestures by the West and go no further.

Some analysts said they believed Mr. Chernenko had initially sought to adopt a more conciliatory line on major issues but had been overruled by the collective inner-politburo group.

"You get the impression he wanted to do something but didn't have the intellectual power or institutional base to stand up to the old guard," one Western diplomat said.

As the right-hand man of the late President Leonid Brezhnev, Mr. Chernenko, 72, is regarded as favouring the type of U.S.-Soviet detente built up in the 1970s.

Diplomats said stronger clues to Mr. Chernenko's capacities and authority would emerge in coming months with a series of visits to Moscow by West European officials.

The foreign ministers of Italy, West Germany and Britain are due to hold talks in the Kremlin and there has been renewed speculation over a possible summit with President Francois Mitterrand of France.

By courting European leaders,



Konstantin Chernenko
 Moscow would be able to combat an image of defensiveness and stagnation in its foreign policy since the missile deployment, diplomats said.

Diplomats believe the Kremlin may still be hoping public opposition could stave off or reduce the second round of missile deployments in the Netherlands and other NATO states.

A series of Soviet proposals, at conferences in Stockholm, Geneva and elsewhere, has been aimed largely at cultivating the State Prime Minister Lothar Späth, enjoy an absolute majority over the three other parties in the state parliament at present.

The sprawling state is West Germany's third largest, sharing borders with France, Switzerland and Austria, and with a population of over nine million.

With its widely diversified industry, it has survived the economic recession better than most. Nationwide, it has the lowest number of unemployed, the highest per capita income, highest productivity levels, and the soundest state treasury.

In a country so dependent on foreign trade, it is the biggest export-oriented state with every third job dependent on overseas orders.

Kohl's first poll test after a cold winter

By Geoffrey Atkins
 Reuters

BIETIGHEIM, West Germany — The coalition government of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl faces its first electoral test after a difficult winter when voters to the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg choose a new parliament on Sunday.

Since the last state elections in the autumn of 1983 the Kohl government has been beset by a number of political storms over the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles and scandals involving two cabinet ministers.

However, most political analysts do not expect any major anti-government swing in Baden-Wuerttemberg this weekend.

The outcome of the state elections will have no effect on the distribution of seats in the national parliament in Bonn.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, under the leadership of State Prime Minister Lothar Späth, enjoy an absolute majority over the three other parties in the state parliament at present.

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Even the opposition concedes that the ambitious, 46-year-old Späth, who has been in office six years, is one of the most popular regional politicians in the nation.

He is also a close friend and confidant of Mr. Kohl, who is making eight campaign speeches in the state within two weeks.

The opposition does not appear to have very hopes that the missiles issue will hurt the government even though the state is the main deployment centre.

At campaign rallies attended by Mr. Kohl at Bietigheim near Stuttgart and at Crailsheim, not far from Mutlangen where the first Pershing-2 missiles were deployed at the turn of the year, heckling youths made little impact.

Audiences packed into local indoor sports stadiums gave Mr. Kohl the warmest applause of the night when he praised the role of U.S. troops and the West German

Bundeswehr (Armed Forces) in preserving peace and freedom.

Despite huge but largely peaceful demonstrations in West Germany against the missiles last year, the Pershings were quietly installed following approval by the Bonn Parliament.

"It's all over. The missiles are here. What can we do about it?" commented one young voter.

Mr. Kohl also played heavily on the recent dramatic improvement in relations between West and East Germany, with an unprecedented surge in the number of East Germans being allowed to leave for the West.

The Social Democrats, who originally promoted the deployment of the missiles then changed their minds, had predicted a new "ice age" in East-West relations once the Pershings arrived.

Even the affair of NATO General Guenter Kiesling, fired then rehabilitated after the government failed to prove allegations — denied by Gen. Kiesling — that he was seen in homosexual bars and was therefore a security risk, is scarcely an issue.

Defence Minister Manfred Woerner, whose constituency is in the state, was heavily criticised for his handling of the affair, but Mr. Kohl refused to accept his resignation.

The other major winter scandal in Bonn, over alleged political bribes, was seen as helping rather than harming the Christian Democrats at the election.

Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff faces charges of accepting bribes for his party from the private Flick Industrial Group in return for tax favours and could be forced to resign if he is formally indicted.

He belongs to the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), the junior member of the Kohl coalition, and the issue has been a national embarrassment for the government.

But in Baden-Wuerttemberg the Christian Democrats have an absolute majority of 68 deputies in the state parliament, against 40 Social Democrats, 10 Free Democrats and six members of the radical Greens Party.

Although Christian Democrat officials expect to have small losses as the Social Democrats recover from a particularly bad showing at the last state election in 1980, they are confident they will retain their majority.

Opinion polls have shown support for the FDP crumbling and Mr. Späth has rebuffed Liberal offers of a coalition.

The Christian Democrats won over 53 per cent of the votes in 1980 against 32.5 for the SPD and over eight per cent for the Liberals.

Anti-election campaign seen as damaging to Salvadorean guerrillas' image

By Bernd Debusmann
 Reuters

SAN SALVADOR — Left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador are pressing on with their campaign against Sunday's elections though it has damaged their credibility and indicates continuing policy disagreements in their ranks, diplomats and political analysts say.

The two front-runners in the presidential race, are extreme right-wing leader Roberto d'Aubuisson and former President Napoleon Duarte of the moderate Christian Democrats.

Contrary to public pledges not to make the election a direct target, insurgents are said to have seized the identity cards of thousands of Salvadoreans to keep them out of the polling stations.

Backing up the action, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and its political wing, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), issued a formal policy statement last week declaring that citizens in areas under guerrilla control or in disputed areas must not vote.

Last February, the chief spokesmen of the FMLN and FDR declared that while the rebels considered the elections an irrelevant farce and would continue their war, they would not disrupt the vote and would allow people to take part.

"This abrupt 180-degree turn makes no sense," said a Salvadoran university lecturer who has been following FMLN politics for years. "It has little or no effect on the vote but it does a lot to harm the FMLN's credibility."

Without identity papers, Salvadoreans cannot take part in the vote.

In the first four days of the campaign, the guerrillas seized an estimated 6,400 identity cards, a negligible figure compared with the 2.5 million people the government said were eligible to vote.



But the anti-election campaign went beyond a few thousand confiscated cards.

"Dozens of towns will have no elections and hundreds of thousands of people will not vote because they are under the total influence of the FMLN," said Joaquin Villalobos, head of one of the five combat groups in the FMLN.

A Latin American diplomat remarked: "It is increasingly difficult to figure out who speaks for whom in the FMLN and FDR. There seems considerable political disarray."

This impression was deepened when the FMLN's representative in Costa Rica, Jorge Villacorta, called a press conference there to insist that the armed men seizing identity cards in El Salvador were in fact disguised army soldiers.

"We state categorically that we have nothing to do with this," he said. "It would be absurd, stupid... voting centres and voters will not be interfered with."

"This is the doing of soldiers in the disguise of our people. It is all a plan to discredit our forces before the elections, a plan mounted with precision and U.S. help."

Most of the roadblocks during the first days of the identity card campaign were manned by guerrillas of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade (BRAZ), a crack unit of Villalobos' Peoples Revolutionary Army (ERP).

At many roadblocks in eastern El Salvador, reporters met BRAZ commanders they had known for years. The campaign later widened to include units of other guerrilla groups.

Confusion over how to handle elections is nothing new. A week before voting for a constituent assembly two years ago, the pre-

sident of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, Guillermo Ungo, said the guerrillas planned no special actions against the poll.

By contrast, the FMLN's radio Venceremos urged people to boycott the poll and on election day several voting stations came under attack.

But while the guerrillas are obviously divided in their approach to Sunday's elections, they seemed completely united in their assessment that the voting was no solution to El Salvador's problems — a view shared by many diplomats.

The guerrillas have turned down repeated government offers that they may participate in elections on condition they lay down their arms. Without firm security guarantees, the insurgents say, accepting such an offer would amount to suicide.

LETTERS

Why serve Israel's ends?

To the Editor:

Moving our embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem could be very dangerous. Mr. Moynihan sounds as if he is the most supportive politician of the issue.

He has said as published in the Daily News on March 11, 1984 that "for Israel's most important friend in the world to refuse to acknowledge that Israel's capital is its own, even to the extent of refusing to permit our ambassador in Israel to set foot in parts of that capital city, tells the world that we are somehow at odds or displeased with Israel."

Yes, we the American people, know that they have taken someone's land and manufactured a country out of it for someone else, and unless that much is acknowledged by Americans, the Middle East will never settle down. Hostilities will go on and on until we deal with the roots of the conflict and start looking after America first. There have been enough millions of U.S. dollars spent and lives sacrificed for defending Israel's adventurism.

We don't want another Lebanon, or worst maybe, and why do we have to be talking about losses of Americans or Arabs who happen to be very friendly not just to us, but to all others. Is Mr. Ariel Sharon upset over what happened to his forces in Lebanon and so wants to drag the American people into another massacre?

Sam Al Joudi,
 Los Angeles, USA.

كولت من الجول

Pakistan: Cradle of an ancient civilisation

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan Friday, March 23 celebrated the 36th anniversary of its foundation as an independent state. Following are highlights of the birth and development of the Islamic Republic.

By Dr. Ahmad Hasan Dani

THE ISLAMIC Republic of Pakistan, which appeared on the world map thirty-six years ago, on Aug. 14, 1947, has, in fact, been the cradle of one of the oldest civilisations of the world, known today by the popular name of the "Indus Valley Civilisation".

The most predominant influence over this area was that of Islam, which appeared with the conquest of Sind (a province of Pakistan today) by the Arabs in 712 A.D., and shaped the culture and life-style of the people of this land for a continuous span of over 1200 years.

The birth of Pakistan was, therefore, culmination of a long and bitter struggle by the Muslims of the Sub-Continent which was under the British rule for over a century. The Muslims, who has a separate entity, with distinct culture, religious beliefs and way of life, and who had, in fact, ruled over the Indian Sub-Continent for several hundred years, proclaimed their separate leadership of Mohammed Ali Jinnah — popularly known as "the Quaid-i-Azam", meaning "the Great Leader", and ultimately succeeded in carving out an independent, sovereign state in the Muslim-majority areas of the Sub-Continent.

On that historic occasion, the Quaid-i-Azam declared: "The establishment of Pakistan, for which we have been striving for the last ten years, is today, by the grace of God, an established fact. The idea was that we should have a state in which we would develop according to our own genius and culture, and where principles of

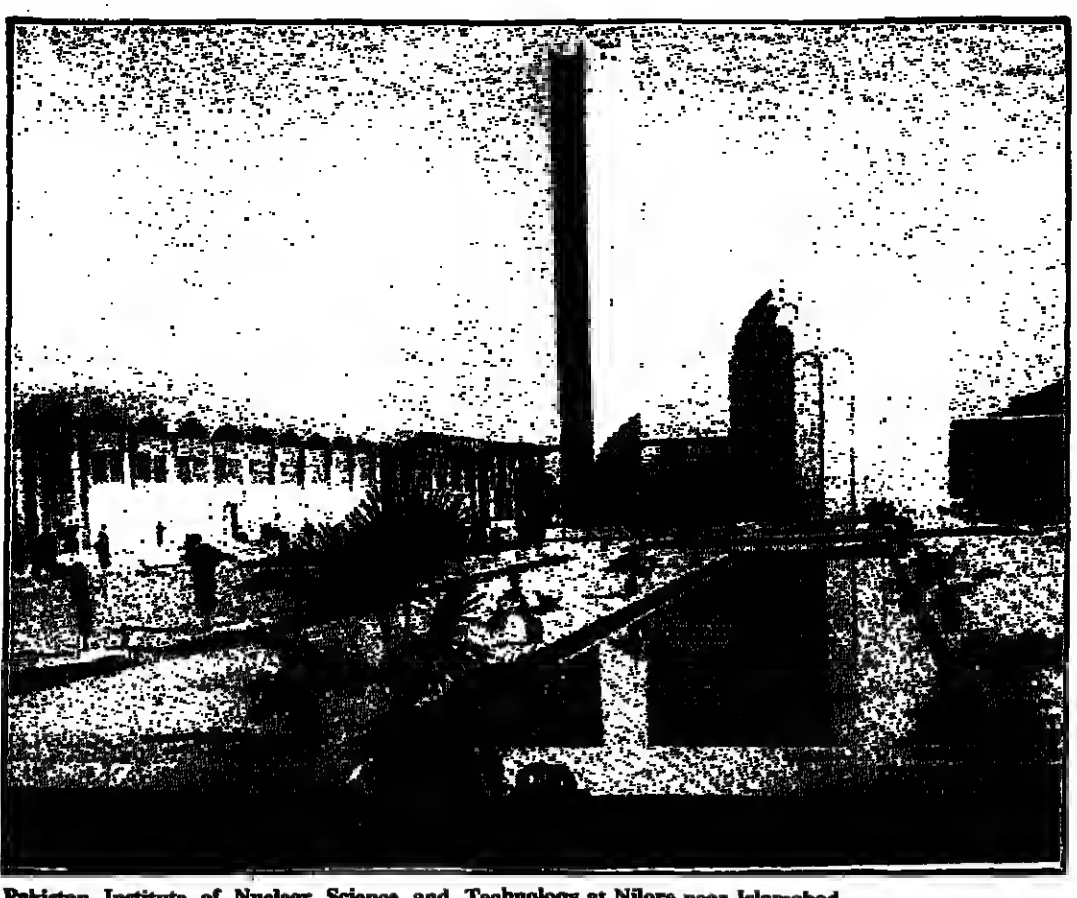
Islamic social justice could find freplay."

Pakistan lies between 23 and 37 degrees north latitude and 61 and 76 degrees east longitude in the northern hemisphere. On its east and south-east lies India, the north and north-west is Afghanistan, on the west is Iran, and in the south the Arabian Sea. On its northern end it has a common border with China along the Gilgit and Balistan.

Strategically situated, connecting the oil-rich Middle East with South East Asia, Pakistan today covers a total area of 796,095 square kilometres and has today a population 83.782 million.

Sixteen kilometres from the old Cantonment city of Rawalpindi under the shadows of blue-green hills of Margalla, lies the new made-to-order beautiful city of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

Snow-covered peaks of the Hindukush and the mighty Himalayan ranges run atop its north and north-west border, while the southern coastline is washing by the warm waves of the Arabian Sea. The northern area of the valleys of Kaghan, Swat and the regions of Hunza, Dir and Chitral and unsurpassed in scenic beauty with rugged peaks, lush forests, torrential rivers and sparkling lakes, while the vast plains of River Indus spread across the provinces of north-west frontier, Punjab and Sind criss-crossed with a network of irrigation canals fed by huge dams of Tarbela, Mangla and Sukkur, are dotted with populous cities and farmlands producing main food and cash crops of the country.



Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology at Nilore near Islamabad

Baluchistan is the fourth province of Pakistan, with its rugged, barren mountains full of known and untapped mineral resources. To the south-east and east of fertile Indus Valley are the deserts of Thar and Run of Kutch.

Mainly an agricultural country, with wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco as its principal crops, Pakistan is the third biggest exporter of cotton and leading exporter of rice. Agriculture plays a vital role in the economy of Pakistan, contributing 29.7 per cent to GDP today.

With hardly any industrial base at the time of its birth in 1947, Pakistan has today attained a fairly diversified base in manufactures ranging from essential consumer goods to chemicals, light and heavy engineering, and machine and tool industries. Domestic production of items, such as refined sugar, steel, fertiliser, some engineering goods and cement has helped in import substitution. Besides this, the coming on stream of Pakistan steel will give a great boost to the development of down-stream projects.

Starting from scratch in almost every sector of national life, Pakistan has made giant strides in all round progress during the last 36 years. Karachi, its largest urban and industrial centre and a busy seaport, has grown from a small port-town of about two-hundred thousand to a booming trade and commercial centre of over five million people, with soaring building complexes, vast industrial estates, and busy bazaars full of modern shopping arcades and business centres.

How long should we carry the cross to Jerusalem?

By Reverend Musa Adeli

SOME TIME ago I visited the long-while unused Arcatraz Prison, situated on its lonely island off the coast of San Francisco. The guide was taking us around, and this being the last tour of the day, he was rather rushing things, no doubt being somewhat tired. I was with Arab friends, who marvelled at the speed of the speech even though they did not understand a word! Even I had a hard task trying to follow and then translate into Arabic for them.

The story of that infamous prison and the prisoners' way of life was something like this. The heavy fortress-like building was built into three floors. The prisoners on the first floor saw the daylight for 20 minutes a week, and that was all. On the second floor they saw the light for 20 minutes daily. On the third floor they saw the light all the time. From this floor there was the most wonderful panoramic view of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. How many hours would those prisoners look over the water at that bridge and think of escape? But there was no way. No possibility, it was only a dream. In Venice, there is another famous bridge — the Bridge of Sighs. On this bridge the prisoner had his very last view of the light and then it was over. From that moment on,

he would dwell in darkness until his death in some foul underground dungeon. These cruel and sad facts of history have been woven into many a novel and film and no doubt glamourised their makers to some extent. But there could have been no spark of glamour for those who were victims of the cruel system working in those far off days.

Bridges seem to have a way of becoming symbols of separation rather than of unity. They are meant to join; often they keep apart. We have one here in our midst that does just that: A wooden bridge spanning a very narrow part of the River Jordan. Small in construction, huge in its meaning — which is: "keep out". For some, however, it is necessary to cross that bridge regardless of the harassment and problems involved. Many Palestinians have family there: mothers, fathers, sons, daughters. Someone becomes ill and is dying, and it becomes imperative to visit him or her. And then it all starts, the problem of how to get there. The foreigner who travels from Jordan to the West Bank may experience delays, but that is about all. If he finds this hard, let him try, just once, to cross on the Arab side, rather than the foreigners' side and see the difference. So many stories come back from that bridge with people

who simply want to visit their own homeland and family. What does it involve? Every single item of luggage examined scrutinisingly. Shoes, bags, etc. are X-rayed. What do the people do whilst their shoes are being X-rayed? Sit without shoes. How are the shoes returned to them? They are shaken out of a sack in the centre of the yard and everyone scrambles, some at times finding only one shoe, the other having got become even more conscious of it when compelled to wait for hours in the hot sun while all sorts of processing is done by the officials at the bridge. An old man I knew needed to go over to see his son. He stayed at the bridge the entire day, papers being checked, clothes being checked. After all this he was told to go back to Amman. Were his papers not in order? He was not told. Whatever the reason, it had taken him all day to find it out and send him back, without even knowing what to do to make another attempt.

Jerusalem with its environs has always been a place which seems to offer hardship and suffering. The Son of Man went there to die and the sons of men continue to try to go there and meet only hostility. Carrying the cross to Jerusalem is a modern occupation for so many. How long is it going to be necessary?

Jamaica experiences one-party parliament for the first time

By Dan Sewell
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica, a nation with an entrenched parliamentary system of two-party politics, is adjusting to a new status as the English-speaking Caribbean's only one-party government.

"It's a bit strange," conceded Prime Minister Edward Seaga. Adding to the oddity of total domination after 40 years of battle between two parties with deep-rooted followings is that the party absent from government leads the latest polls.

The last one-party government among the region's former British colonies was in Grenada, where the Marxist New Jewel Movement denounced the inherited Westminster system and ruled without elections. Mr. Seaga sent Jamaican troops to help the U.S.-led invasion last Oct. 25.

The action was popular and a post-Grenada poll put the moderate governing Labour Party back in the lead after it had slipped behind the Social People's Nationalist Party (PNP). When the PNP in December called on Mr.

Seaga to resign as finance minister because of the nation's economic problems, he seized the opportunity to call elections, saying the government's integrity had been questioned.

The PNP, regrouping since its 1980 electoral loss after eight years in power, charged Mr. Seaga violated an agreement not to call new elections on the outdated 1980 voters' lists. Leader Michel Manley decided to boycott the Dec. 15 elections. Independents ran for six seats, but didn't stop a 60-0 Labour Party sweep.

Mr. Seaga, who says the PNP, when in power, had called elections on old lists, has tried to give a semblance of opposition and true debate with the parliament.

In the Senate, an appointed, 21-person body, he filled eight seats normally chosen by the opposition with people without Labour Party ties. They include two former PNP members, the president of Jamaica's Baptist Union, a prominent educator, a farm leader and the author of a book on the Rastafarian religious cult.

The House amended rules to allow up to 15 members of the opposition to participate in deb-

ates. The first bill to draw debates from the public was renewal of a law giving police special search-and-seizure powers in marijuana cases. A minister argued in favour. It was opposed by Juh Lijj of the Royal Ethiopian Juda-Coptic Church, which worships God as "Jah" and smokes marijuana as a sacrament.

House leader J.A.G. Smith said as "a lover of parliament" and its traditions, he was apprehensive about opening parliamentary debate to the masses.

But speakers must stick to texts submitted seven days in advance and worded in "parliamentary form."

"You could end up with a more involved public, and a much more informed parliament," Mr. Smith said after February's first sitting.

The eight independent senators have formed an opposition caucus. The group has been more active in filing and debating bills than its PNP predecessors. Overall, both Labour Party officials and critics agree, the lack of PNP opposition has little effect on government. The Labour Party held a 51-0 command before.

Yugoslavs prepare to elect a collective presidency

By Ljubinka Mollic

BELGRADE — The procedure has started for elections for the presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) since the terms of some of the members of this highest state body expire next May.

Of the world's 23 federations, Yugoslavia alone has a collective head of state. This nine-member body, set up in 1970, took on all the prerogatives of the presidential office after the death in May 1980 of Josip Broz Tito, who had exercised them for many years.

Each of Yugoslavia's six republics and two autonomous provinces is represented on the presidency by one member. The president of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Central Committee Presidency is an ex-officio member of this body.

Though elected by the assemblies of the republics and the provinces, members of the presidency of the SFRY have always been public figures known and recognised throughout Yugoslavia, participants of the people's Liberation War and Tito's fellow-fighters.

Future members of this body are supposed to be of similar reputation. First comment on the coming elections points out that persons who have "maximally proved their worth in the strengthening and development of socialist self-management" who have "won affirmation as the fighters for the maintenance, strengthening and development of Yugoslavia's independence, non-alignment, night standing and position in the world", and who enjoy the highest reputation throughout the country — should be

nominated candidates for members of the presidency of the SFRY.

A document issued by the country's largest socio-political organisation, the Socialist Alliance, stresses that persons able and willing to represent the interests of Yugoslavia as a whole should be elected.

The emphasis laid on this point as characteristic for future members of the presidency is important in view of the body's responsibility under the constitution for the adjustment of common interests of all the federal units.

Members of the presidency are elected for a five-year term of office, and no member can be re-elected for more than two consecutive terms. They are elected by secret ballot by the republican and provincial assemblies, respectively. The composition of the

presidency is verified and made known by the assembly of Yugoslavia.

Thorough changes are certain to take place in the composition of the future presidency, since the second terms of five of the eight members of the present presidency are due to expire.

Representatives of the republics and the provinces rotate at the head of the presidency at one-year intervals, according to a schedule laid down by the Presidency Rules of Procedure. It is already known that the future president of the presidency will be the representative of the republic of Montenegro, and the vice-president, the representative of the province of Vojvodina. The fixed order of succession ensures the complete equality of all republics and provinces.

All members of the presidency are equal. In consequence, the election of new persons to the posts of president and vice-president does not result in any substantive change in work of the collective head of state.

The president, however, has the greatest work obligations: he represents the presidency at home and abroad, and he is also president of the Council for National Defence.

The rights and duties of the presidency are defined by the constitution of the SFRY.

The presidency is the supreme organ of administration and command of the country's armed forces. Its prerogatives also include proposing to the Assembly of Yugoslavia a candidate for the president of the Federal Executive Council, appointing and relieving of duty ambassadors, conferring decorations, etc. — Tanjug.

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QPR hammers Southampton

LONDON (R) — Queen's Park Rangers stole the limelight by trouncing Southampton 4-0 on a day when the English first division soccer programme's glamour match was washed out by torrential rain.

Leaders Manchester United were due to visit third-placed Nottingham Forest with the prospect of a compelling match between teams fresh from European glory three days earlier.

But the clash was called off two hours before the start because of a waterlogged pitch, and, with champions Liverpool not in action because of their League Cup final against Everton at Wembley Sunday, Queen's Park Rangers seized the chance to become the focus of attention.

London club Rangers' emphatic win over the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup favourites stepped up their bid for a place in European competition next season.

England under-21 defender Steve Wicks lifted Rangers with a 15th minute goal and midfielder Gary Micklewhite fired the second just before halftime. Second half goals by striker Clive Allen and midfielder Gary Waddock sealed success.

Rangers were one of a London trio to hit four goals — Tottenham

won 4-2 at Coventry, while Arsenal swept to a 4-1 success at home to Wolverhampton.

Tottenham, one of the six British clubs to reach the semifinals of European competitions this week, were set on course for success by two first half goals, one a penalty, from striker Alan Brazil.

Graham Withey pulled one back but Graham Roberts responded with Tottenham's soon after. A Gerry Daly penalty again cut the deficit for Coventry before midfielder Mike Hazard clinched the Londoners' victory with the fourth goal 10 minutes from the end.

Arsenal found a bright spot in a sombre season by landing only their third win in 10 games at the expense of bottom club Wolverhampton.

England pair Tony Wondcock and Graham Rix each netted to give Arsenal a 3-0 halftime advantage which was consolidated by second half goals from Scot Charlie Nicholas, who scored from the spot, and Stewart Robson.

The top of the table remains

unchanged with Manchester United (64 points). Liverpool (63), Nottingham Forest (56) and Southampton (55) leading the way.

Watford, F.A. Cup semifinalists with Southampton, Everton and Plymouth, were held to a goalless draw at Ipswich in a match between opponents of contrasting fortunes.

Watford have coupled cup success with a satisfactory league performance — Saturday's draw kept them in seventh spot — while Ipswich, ninth last season, have plunged to 20th in the 22-team division.

Relegation-haunted Ipswich's form has been so dismal that this was the first time they had not conceded a goal in a first division match this season, and gained their first point in eight matches.

West Bromwich, fifth from bottom overnight, considerably eased their relegation worries with an emphatic 3-0 win over Stoke whose fears of dropping into Division Two were heightened. They remain fourth from last.

England under-21 midfielder Steve Mackenzie shot West Bromwich into a second minute lead which was extended by a 33rd minute goal from Steve Hunt, in his second game since signing from Coventry. Tony Morley grabbed the third.

Jordan international marathon idea discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Amateur Athletics Federation deputy president Yassin Al Jellani met in Cairo with the Greek businessman, Mr. Diplekides, who finances Egypt's Sphinx Marathon, and held talks with him regarding organising and holding a Jordanian international marathon this year or next. Al Ra'i newspaper reported Saturday.

Quoting their correspondent in Egypt, the paper said that there was initial agreement on holding the race and naming it "Petra Marathon" and would take place in the middle of the tourist season in Jordan. Mr. Diplekides, one of the Seven-Up company officials, has pledged to finance this marathon, to draw a group of world class runners to this marathon and also to invite a large number of competitors from Europe and Asia. Mr. Jellani will be bringing this initial agreement with him on his return to Amman to refer it to the Youth Welfare Organisation for approval. If the agreement will be approved, Mr. Jellani will then invite Mr. Diplekides to Amman to draw-up final details and arrangements for the first Jordanian international marathon.

Hess, McKinney claim titles

OSLO (R) — Switzerland's Erika Hess won her second overall women's World Cup title as American Tamara McKinney raced to victory in the Varingskollen slalom event to clinch the slalom crown here Saturday.

It was McKinney's fourth World Cup win in as many weeks. She produced a superb second leg of 43.91 seconds to win in a combined time of one minute 29.21 seconds — nearly a second ahead of Poland's Dorota Tkacka who clocked 1:30.15. France's Perrine Pelen was third.

Hess finished fourth but was already certain to win the overall crown after the first run when Liechtenstein's Hanni Wenzel missed a gate and was disqualified.

Wenzel needed to finish either first or second Saturday with Hess finishing outside the top three to lift the title.

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg raced to his fifth victory of the season here Saturday to win the men's World Cup slalom title with 125 points — the maximum possible.

Girardelli finished more than half a second ahead of Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark over two legs in Saturday's event, the final slalom of the season.

Stenmark, who needed to win to have any hope of retaining his slalom crown, finished second in the standings.

Austrian Girardelli, who skis under a Luxembourg licence, won both legs, clocking 41.00 and 42.43 seconds for an unofficial combined time of one minute 23.43 seconds.

Stenmark, finishing in 1:24.04 for the two runs, put a comfortable 0.54 seconds between himself and third-placed Paolo de Chiesa of Italy.

Overall World Cup winner Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland and Liechtenstein's Andreas Wenzel both failed to complete the course after crashing on the first run.

Japan, China backing rival cities to host 1990 Asian Games

PEKING (R) — China is backing Peking while Japan wants Hiroshima to host the 1990 Asian Games, and the two friendly neighbours look set for a tough diplomatic wrangle over the venue.

The conflict of interests emerged Saturday after talks between Chinese foreign minister Wu Xueqian and his Japanese counterpart, Shintaro Abe.

A spokesman for Abe said afterwards: "The Japanese government has decided to support the bid of Hiroshima (southern Japan) and seeks the support and understanding of the Chinese side, while the Chinese government has decided to support Peking's bid and seeks the support and understanding of the Japanese."

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman confirmed the rival claims, but added the two sides would consult to achieve a satisfactory solution.

The next Asian Games are due to be staged in 1986 in Seoul, South Korea, which has also been awarded the right to the 1988 Olympics.

Lawson takes 1st motorcycle Grand Prix

KYALAMI, South Africa (R) — American Eddie Lawson scored his first World Championship victory here Saturday, riding a masterful race in appalling conditions to finish the clear winner of the South African Motorcycle Grand Prix.

Lawson, promoted to Yamaha team leader this year, led for all but five of the 30 rain-soaked laps to take the season's opening 500 cc championship race no less than 12.6 seconds ahead of Frenchman Raymond Roche on a Honda.

But even the shy 26-year-old Californian would admit that third-placed Barry Sheene of Britain was the star of the race. The Suzuki rider achieved his best Grand Prix finish since his bad crash at Silverstone in 1982.

Living up to his reputation as a master of wet conditions, the irrepressible Sheene, in his 16th year of racing, improved from 13th at the end of the opening lap to within half a second of Roche at the chequered flag.

Lawson would also concede his task was helped immeasurably by the absence of fellow American Freddie Spencer. The world champion withdrew before the race after suffering ankle and foot injuries in a practice fall on Thursday.

Lawson led from the start, delayed for 25 minutes to allow tyre changes to cope with the pouring rain, but was forced to let Belgian Didier de Radigues past on lap three.

The American regained the lead on lap nine, quickly pulled out a five-second gap and never looked like losing the race from then on. Bebold him, British Honda works rider Ron Haslam cut through the field into second place before a 12th lap crash put him out of the race. He was unhurt.

Lawson said that he was unhappy with the conditions and the puddles that formed around the uneven Kyalami circuit.

"I almost lost the front end three or four times. We don't race in the wet in the States and it's a good thing — we don't know what we're doing out there in the wet," he said.

A jubilant Sheene, who spent most of the race battling for third with de Radigues, said that he felt he could have snatched second from Roche.

"I'm sure I could have passed him — but he was going so slowly on the last lap I thought he couldn't have been in second place."

He tempered suggestions that he might be a contender for the title this year on his non-works Suzuki: "I think the rain had a lot to do with it today."

Frenchman Patrick Fernandez won the closely-fought 250 cc event from compatriot Christian Sarron.

New fuel standards could curb Formula One speed limits

LONDON (R) — Economy rather than speed could play a major role in the outcome of this year's World Motor Racing Championship.

Nelson Piquet begins the defence of his Formula One crown on home soil in Rio de Janeiro this weekend aware that over-enthusiastic use of his right foot on the accelerator pedal may prove costly.

The Brazilian is not the only driver facing the adjustment to new regulations which restrict the amount of fuel carried by cars — only one team will be without thirsty turbocharged engines for the entire 16-race season.

The 220 litres limit per Grand Prix produces one critical equation: Consumption versus horsepower. And the governing International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) intend to enforce rigidly the maximum figure despite fears that some teams may exploit loopholes in the rules to gain an advantage.

Only time will tell whether cars will have to be driven with restraint in order to reach the finish. Some teams harbour doubts but others say technical improvements will overcome the problem.

Cars will no longer be allowed to call into the pits for a 'top up' — a spectacle which has caused much interest and excitement for the last two seasons — nor will refuelling be permitted after a false start. The race distance will be reduced accordingly.

The longer-than-usual close season between the final South African Grand Prix in October and the first race in Brazil Sunday has been no less frantic because of its five-month duration.

While designers and engineers have been shoe-horning new turbo engines into the latest crop of slimmer, more aerodynamic bodysells, team managers pondered their 1984 line-ups.

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Many drivers switched teams, several newcomers have appeared, one big-name has disappeared for the moment and a handful remained with the same bosses.

Piquet, who beat Frenchman Alain Prost to the title by two points after his splendid late charge last season, remains with Brabham. But he has a new number two in Italian Teo Fabi whose brother Corrado will act as a stand-in when required.

Riccardo Patrese, another member of the increasing crop of Italians now in Formula One, has joined American Eddie Cheever at Alfa Romeo.

Cheever was Prost's number two at Renault last year, while the Frenchman has returned to McLaren, the first team to recognise his potential.

Austrian Niki Lauda, the most experienced driver left in the Grand Prix circus, remains with McLaren but the team have parted company with seasoned British campaigner John Watson. He failed to find a place elsewhere.

Ferrari have kept Frenchman Rene Arnoux, also in the championship hunt for a time last season, and signed gifted Italian Michele Alboreto from Tyrrell, the team lacking turbo power.

Patrick Tambay, of France has gone to Renault from Ferrari along with British prospect Derek Warwick, who cut his Formula One teeth at Toleman.

Williams have stood by Frenchman Jacques Laffite and retained former champion Keke Rosberg of Finland — a good title tip now his car has a Honda engine.

Lotus, long overdue for further honours, and arrows, also remain unchanged. Italian Elio de Angelis and Briton Nigel Mansell drive for Renault-powered Lotus and Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Swiss Marc Surer stay in charge of the Arrows cars which are awaiting BMW engines. They start with orthodox Ford Cosworth units.

Britain's Martin Brundle joins West German Stefan Bellof at Tyrrell who hope the new fuel limit will make them competitive. The team cannot expect to figure prominently on the starting grid but once racing starts, their Cosworth engines, economical in Formula One terms, will be able to race flat out throughout. The Tyrrells also have a sizeable weight advantage.

Brundle and Bellof are Grand Prix novices, along with Frenchmen Philippe Alliot and Francois Hesnault and Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

Alliot will be with European Formula Two champion Jonathan Palmer in the Ram team. Palmer, a doctor of medicine, has one Grand Prix, in a Williams, to his credit.

Hesnault, possibly the most inexperienced driver to make the big time this season, partners Italian Andrea de Cesaris at Ligier, another team using Renault engines.

Senna, who just beat Brundle to the British Formula three Championship last season, supports Venezuelan Johnny Cecotto at Toleman.

On the safety front, a scheme to change the method of qualifying for starting grids was not adopted. The idea was to base practice times on an average speed for any five laps, instead of one, thus reducing the risk of accidents when drivers on a 'flying lap' caught other cars which were just 'touring'. Instead, practice remains exactly the same.

One Grand Prix scheduled for New York has already disappeared from the 1984 calendar, but it was soon replaced by a late-season street race at Fuengirola in Spain.

Problems with the South African and Belgian Grand Prix appear to be resolved. The Formula One circus also travel to Dallas for the first time and return to a new, reshaped Nuerburgring in West Germany.

Scott Hamilton lands 4th world title

OTTAWA (R) — Diminutive American Scott Hamilton, making what could be his final bow on the amateur stage, Friday night won his fourth successive world figure skating title.

But in an exact repeat of the Olympics, he had to be content with second place in the long free-skating programme to Canadian Brian Orser who took the overall silver medal.

Hamilton, who put his hand briefly on the ice during one of five triple jumps, gained his gold by dominating the compulsory figures and giving a dazzling display of free-skating in the two-minute short programme.

Friday night's free-skating finale was distinct improvement on his patchy Olympic performance when he missed out two triple jumps. But still the effervescent extrovert from Boulder, Colorado had to bow to Orser in the last set of marks.

Hamilton, constantly pressed by reporters throughout the week to say if he now planned to retire from amateur skating, would only tell them: "It's a less than 50-50 chance that I will stay."

Hamilton has not lost in competition since September, 1980, a magnificent achievement by a skater famed for his intricate footwork and dazzling speed in turns.

Friday night's bronze medal went to European Champion Alexander Fadeev, richly deserved compensation for the Russian star who had performed so disappointingly in the Olympics.

Orser, angry with himself for losing to Hamilton in the first free-skating test on Thursday, won almost perfect marks of 5.9 from eight of the nine judges for technical merit.

But Orser's marks could not begin to measure up to the amazing set of 6.0's that all the judges gave earlier in the day to Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean for their superb Paso Doble.

The capacity crowd of 10,000 gave the ice dance champions a standing ovation and Dean agreed afterwards: "The audience here was fantastic. They are more appreciative and knowledgeable than they were in Sarajevo."

The couple wrap up their amateur career Friday with their sensual and hypnotic version of the Ravel's Bolero which won them a string of perfect marks in the Olympics.

Hamilton, pressed by reporters afterwards to say what his future plans were, said: "I probably will step down. I think it's time."

Commenting on the fact that he had to go onto the ice and skate right after Orser's superb performance, he said: "That was a real challenge."

He added: "I got a little nervous after the first two jumps, I felt good and really started to enjoy it."

Asked to reflect on his great career in the world championships, Hamilton said: "I am happy with four titles. That's pretty good."

Orser, lifted by a home crowd, felt his performance Friday night was even better than his Olympic free-skating.

"I definitely lost the chance for a gold because of my compulsory figures," said Orser, who finished a distant seventh in the compulsory.

Mandlikova defeats Ruzici

DALLAS (R) — Third-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia overcame Virginia Ruzici of Romania, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, Friday night to reach the semifinals of the \$150,000 women's tennis tournament here.

Mandlikova's semifinal opponent will be second seed Pam Shriver of the United States, who defeated American Kim Shaefer, 6-3, 6-1.

The other semifinal pairs fourth-seeded Kathy Jordan against sixth-seeded American compatriot Zina Garrison.

Jordan overwhelmed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-0, while Garrison crushed fellow-American Joanne Russell, 6-0, 6-1.

Mandlikova, playing a serve-and-volley game, ran into early problems with Ruzici's fierce forehands. The Czechoslovak lost the first set and fell a break behind in the second before dominating the third set as the Romanian began making unforced errors.

"I was fighting every game," Mandlikova said. "I haven't seen Virginia play so well in a very long time. I tried to come in as much as possible, but some of her forehands were unbelievable."

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Large second floor apartment located between 3rd and 4th Circles near Zahran Post Office. Consisting of: Three bedrooms, one kitchen, two bathrooms, one veranda, large dining and living rooms, approximate total surface 250 square metres plus three separate terraces.

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NEW FLATS FOR RENT

Consists of 2 or 3 bedrooms, sitting, living, dining and two bathrooms each, separate central heating in each. Available, a big store, 800 square metres.

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Two furnished apartments in one modern building consisting of:
a- Three bedrooms, two living rooms, dining room, kitchen, two baths and three balconies.
b- One bedroom, living room, kitchen and bath.
With central heating and telephone.

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Consisting of three bedrooms, lounge, dining room, sitting room, three bathrooms, spacious kitchen and two verandas with central heating and a telephone.

Location: Shmeisani, near Birds Garden
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TO LET

Fully furnished two bedroom apartments — no telephone — Sixth Circle, opposite Garden plants shop. Annual rent JD 3,000. Monthly payments accepted.

For further details, contact Mr. Omar Tel: 817121

Cinema
CONCORD
Tel: 44092-44280

GANDHI
"Colour"

Performances: 3:30, 8:15, 9:00
Additional performance Thursdays & Saturdays at 10:30

Cinema
AL-HUSSEIN
Tel: 22117

THE RIVER OF THE GREAT ALLIGATOR
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 25155

Dirty Treks
(Colour)

Performances: 9:30-6 - 8:30

Cinema
ZAHARAN
Tel: 23171

THE SEPARATION
(Colour)
"Italian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
BASMAN
Tel: 30126

THE IRON THIEF
(Colour)
"Arabic Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema
PALESTINE
Tel: 22117

1- SHAAN
"Indian film"
2- THE CRAWLING TIGER
"Karate"

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 82198

LOVE SINS
(Colour)
"Arabic Film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

COLOMBO (R)—The Sri Lankan central bank Friday announced a 10% increase in the forward market rate, from 140 to 154 rupees per dollar, to curb speculation and a disruption of the forward market. Mr. Ras-

1.4 billion rupees (\$48 to \$56 million).

Mr. Rasaputram said in addition an increased quantum of 350 million rupees (\$14 million) will be available for tea exporters who have been asking for increased finance following the boom in tea prices.

He said about 50 per cent of the current refinance facility went into the tea export sector.

In a credit control exercise on non-essential imports, banks have been asked not to expand credit beyond levels achieved on March 23 to this sector.

"This would surely push up the prices of luxury goods available here," one banker said.

Mitterrand rejects role as U.S.-Soviet mediator

WASHINGTON (R) — Though French President Francois Mitterrand hopes to visit Moscow later this year, he has rejected any role as mediator to assist in getting U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms reduction talks started again.

Mr. Mitterrand confirmed at a news conference Friday after meeting President Reagan that his trip to the Soviet Union was probable but not yet finalized. The American leader had not asked him to act as a U.S.-Soviet mediator, he added.

A U.S. official told reporters, however, that Mr. Reagan would surely be agreeable if Mr. Mitterrand's planned Moscow trip somehow produced a new Soviet proposal to renew the nuclear arms reduction talks.

The official, giving a press briefing on condition he not be named, said Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mitterrand did not specifically discuss the prospect of a Franco-Soviet meeting.

But, asked if Mr. Mitterrand's trip came up in any way, he said: "The subject of East-West contacts and possible ways to resuscitate the dialogue was discussed."

Mr. Mitterrand, who arrived here on Thursday and was due to leave Saturday for Atlanta, Georgia, at the start of a tour of several American cities, told reporters after his breakfast meeting with Mr. Reagan that he hoped the talks would resume in coming months.

"My state of mind allows me to hope... the dialogue will be resumed," Mr. Mitterrand said. "That is a prediction, not a piece of information."

But Mr. Mitterrand and Mr.

Reagan appeared to disagree on how definitely the Soviet Union wants to renew the talks.

Mr. Mitterrand said publicly this week he believed Moscow did want the talks revived eventually but not immediately, having so recently lost its effort to prevent stationing of new U.S. missiles in Europe.

The U.S. official said that view was a possibility but added the administration could not be certain the Kremlin wanted to renew the talks at all.

Moscow suspended U.S.-Soviet talks on both their European missile and long-range missiles last year as the West began deploying U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe to counter Soviet missiles already there.

Mr. Mitterrand is also scheduled to visit San Francisco, an Illinois farm, the eastern steel-producing city of Pittsburgh and New York City before returning to Paris on Wednesday.

3 American states to hold weekend caucuses

NEW YORK (AP) — The Democratic Party U.S. presidential candidates are vying for delegates in Kansas, Montana and Virginia this weekend as voters hold caucuses to select delegates to the national convention in July.

There are 124 pledged delegates at stake, but the three states have not attracted the kind of attention focused on the larger, more populous industrial states, such as New York and Pennsylvania where primary nominating elections will be held in early April.

Virginia, with 69 of its 78 Democratic delegates to be decided through caucuses, holds its meetings Saturday afternoon and Monday night.

Former U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale, with a strong

state organization, is considered the front-runner.

Virginia Governor Charles Rohrbach — an early backer of Ohio Senator John Glenn, who has since withdrawn — is hoping to take an uncommitted delegation to the national convention in San Francisco. State Party officials say the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who campaigned in the state last week, appears to be picking up strength.

With almost one-third of the delegates to the national convention already chosen, Mr. Mondale has 629 of the 1,967 delegates to be needed to nominate. Colorado Senator Gary Hart has 357 and Rev. Jackson 61.

Neither the Mondale nor the Hart campaigns are predicting victory in Kansas and Governor John

Carlin, another early Glenn backer, said he wants to go to the convention as an uncommitted delegate.

In Montana, 19 of the state's 25 convention delegates will be decided through the caucuses on Sunday — the first time Montana Democrats have used the caucus system.

In a caucus, the voters declare publicly their support for candidates, while in a primary, they make their choices through secret ballots.

Sen. Hart has spent more time in Montana than Mr. Mondale, and this week began an advertising blitz, but Mr. Mondale is relying on the support of organized labour in the heavily unionized state.

Armed Italian robbers get away with \$15m

ROME (R) — Armed robbers claiming to be members of the left-wing Red Brigades urban guerrillas seized about 25 million lire (\$15 million) Saturday in a spectacular dawn raid on a Rome security firm, police said.

Investigators said that a man rang the Rome office of the Communist Daily L'Unita claiming that the Red Brigades were responsible for the holdup, believed to be the biggest of its kind in Italian history.

Before making off with their massive haul, the robbers photographed a bound security guard after hanging a placard around his neck bearing a five-pointed star, the Red Brigades' symbol.

In a carefully planned operation, the raiders abducted one of the firm's employees Friday evening and used him to help them fool security guards at the compound who were then seized,

bound and gagged.

The four-man gang held the employee at gunpoint overnight in his apartment with his wife and daughter before forcing him to drive three of them to the compound posing as men from another security company.

The fourth man stood guard at the apartment until the raid was over.

Police, alerted after one of the firm's officials managed to free himself, said they found leaflets stamped with the familiar five-pointed star of the Red Brigades claiming responsibility for the raid. They also found explosives and rifle ammunition.

On Friday, police said they had discovered a cache of explosives, weapons and documents in an apartment on the outskirts of southern Rome which they believe was used as a hideout by the brigades.

Helicopter crash kills 29 troops in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — All 18 U.S. Marines and 11 South Korean military personnel aboard an American helicopter were believed killed when it crashed into a mountainside in the southeast of South Korea, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The spokesman said the search was continuing in rugged mountain country, but no survivors had been found.

He said some bodies had been recovered from the wreckage of the large CH-53D troop-carrying helicopter which was taking part in joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises when the crash occurred.

The crash occurred in darkness in deteriorating weather, the spokesman said.

He said six helicopters took off from Pohang Air Base to take part in a night counter-insurgency operation.

When the weather became worse the mission was cancelled and the helicopters were ordered back to base.

The ill-fated helicopter was returning to base when it crashed at 4 a.m. into a mountainside about 40 kilometres north of Pohang, the spokesman said.

The identity of the dead U.S. Marines would not be revealed until next of kin were informed, he said.

Next Tuesday's protest has been called by the same opposition trade unions and political parties behind last year's anti-government demonstrations, which presented Gen. Pinochet with his most serious challenge in a decade of military rule.

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Salvadorean government troops move through La Palma Thursday as they check for guerrillas during an operation to secure the village in advance of Sunday's elections (AP wirephoto)

Salvadorean army clashes with rebels

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadorean troops were Friday trying to wrest control of a town in eastern El Salvador from leftist guerrillas before presidential elections on Sunday, military sources said.

They said troops were advancing on the guerrilla-held town of Anamoros in the eastern province of La Union, and clashed with guerrillas on the road leading to the town.

No details of casualties were available.

The fighting near Anamoros came as army artillery pounded guerrilla positions in El Salvador's northern Chalatenango province to secure the area for the elections.

Army sources said units of the Fifth Infantry Brigade were pushing north to the towns of San Ignacio, La Reina and Citala which have been under guerrilla control for most of the past 18 months.

On Thursday rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) withdrew without a fight from La Palma near the Honduran border, leaving the army to occupy the town and make preparations for the poll.

The latest army push — parallel with a 5,000-man operation in the east — appeared in response to a

statement by insurgent commander Joaquin Villalobos that "hundreds of thousands" of people in areas under guerrilla control would not vote.

Mr. Villalobos, head of the Revolutionary Peoples Army (ERP), declared: "What is happening with the elections is that dozens and dozens of towns will have no elections and hundreds of thousands of people will not vote because they are not under the control of the enemy but under the total influence of the FMLN."

His statement Thursday followed a formal communiqué by the FMLN and its political wing, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), that Salvadoreans in areas under FMLN control or in areas in dispute must not vote.

There were no immediate reports of fighting resulting from the army advance in Chalatenango. The guerrillas appeared to slip away to the mountains, following a pattern that has become familiar through the past four years of civil war.

But near Cojutepeque, only 32 kilometres from the capital, troops of the 29,000-strong army and guerrilla forces fought a three-hour battle which flared when the rebels attacked a National Guard

post, army sources reported.

Along the Panamerican Highway, meanwhile, guerrillas of Mr. Villalobos's guerrilla group set up a roadblock near the village of El Triunfo and confiscated the identity cards of travellers to keep them away from the polling stations on Sunday.

Without identity cards, Salvadoreans cannot vote in the elections, which are compulsory.

The guerrillas' anti-election campaign contrasted sharply with their public promises not to make the elections a direct target.

Rebel Radio Farabundo Martí warned civilian aircraft Friday to keep clear of airstrips used by the armed forces or risk being blown up, saying: "Such strips are targets of the FMLN."

An air force plane packed with 450 ballot boxes was badly damaged when it ran over a guerrilla mine as it was landing at a small airfield in eastern El Salvador.

Another rebel station, Radio Venceremos, urged drivers to listen to its transmissions for details of mined roads.

"We also call on drivers not to try and remove barricades and other obstacles on the roads because they could be stuffed with explosives," it said.

Washington announces military exercises

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Defence Department announced Friday a new three-month military field exercise in Honduras that may include troops from several Central American nations for the first time.

Previous military exercises in Honduras have involved only U.S. and Honduran troops. This time, Pentagon sources said, Panama, Guatemala and El Salvador have been invited to join in counter-insurgency and other war games there. It is uncertain whether these countries will accept, the sources said.

About 1,800 U.S. troops will participate in the new exercise, called Granadero I, which will run from April 1 through June 30. This exercise has been tentatively scheduled since the end of a six-month-long series called Big Pine II in early February.

The United States has established an ever-more-active U.S. military and naval presence in the Central American region over the last year as President Ronald Reagan's administration attempts to demonstrate its intention of preventing Marxist takeovers in El Salvador or other countries in the region.

Underscoring this, the Pentagon announcement said the "U.S. decision to participate in Granadero I reflects our resolve to re-assure Central American nations of our continuing support and co-operation."

The Pentagon had said Thursday more than 30,000 U.S. troops will stage exercises in the Caribbean, Strait of Florida, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean this spring.

The two announcements came during the run-up to Sunday's presidential elections in El Salvador, where the United States backs the government in its fight against leftist guerrillas.

Acid rain threatens Taj Mahal

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Indian environmentalists warned Thursday that acid rain could seriously damage the 331-year-old Taj Mahal, the world's greatest monument to love. Environmental specialists attending a pollution management conference here said air pollution devices now installed in Agra city, where the historic white marble mausoleum is located, were not sufficient to check the acid content of rain. They asked the Indian government to monitor the toxic substances to save the facade from flaking and discolouring.

Former missionary sentenced to death

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (R) — A former Mormon missionary was sentenced to death Friday after being convicted of the sex murders of five boys ranging in age from four to 13. A jury recommended execution by firing squad or lethal injection for 32-year-old Gary Bishop. He was convicted of murder, kidnapping and sexual abuse by the same jury earlier this week. Bishop, who once served in the Philippines as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ—Latter Day Saints based in Salt Lake City, may select the method of his execution.

German hang glides from Mt. Kinabalu

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — West German librarian Ernst Witte, 45, has become the first man to hang glide from the top of southeast Asia's highest peak, 4,101-metre Mount Kinabalu. Hampered by strong winds and mist, Witte narrowly missed death as he landed in jungle Friday at the foot of the mountain in Malaysia's North Borneo state of Sabah. "Thick jungle made it difficult for me to land at the designated place and I nearly faced death as my hang glider narrowly missed a branch," he told reporters. The head of Sabah National Parks, Lamri Ali, said the state government would ask the Guinness Book of Records whether Witte had broken the record for high altitude hang gliding.

80 whales die in struggle to save calf

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — More than 80 whales died when they went to the aid of a baby calf which strayed too close to the shore, government fisheries experts said Saturday. A school of 143 pilot whales was beached near Auckland this week and troops joined local people in a round-the-clock battle to save them. About 60 were helped back to sea. 25 had to be shot because of injuries and the rest died of natural causes. "We found a little baby right in close to the shallows and we suspect the rest came in after him," Fisheries Officer Steve Whitehouse said.

Malaysia tightens law on polygamy

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has tightened its law on polygamy to prevent Muslim men from marrying second wives in secret. Under the Islamic family law bill, passed by the Lower House of Parliament Friday, a man must obtain written permission from a religious court judge before taking a second wife. Sharifah Dora Binti Syed Mohammad, Deputy Minister in the prime minister's department, told parliament this should stop men marrying in secret. There have been cases where the first wife only discovered that her husband had a second wife and a string of children when he died and the other half of the family turned up at the cemetery, she said.

Shanghai keeps tabs on centenarians

PEKING (R) — Social workers probing the secrets of longevity are studying Shanghai's 25 centenarians, including the state of their wrinkles and teeth, the New China News Agency said Saturday. Shanghai, China's largest city with nearly 12 million people, has 19 women and four men aged 100 or more. An official of the Shanghai Old People's Association said details were kept of their hair colour, wrinkles, teeth, hearing and eyesight as well as on their diet and how they live.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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GIVE DEFENDERS ENOUGH ROPE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ KQ76
♥ K9872
♦ Q6
♠ QJ

WEST
♦ 985
♥ J64
♦ 107
♠ K9854

EAST
♦ 1042
♥ A103
♦ J9832
♠ 72

THE HIDING:
North East South West
2 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠.

If you are going to try for a scam at the bridge table, make the crucial play early. The less the opponents know about the hand, the better. Take this example from a side game at the recent Summer North American Championships in sunny New Orleans.

North's two diamond opening bid was the Flannery convention. It showed a minimum opening bid with five hearts and four spades. South's two no trump was

forcing and North's three no trump showed a hand with two cards in each minor suit and honors in those suits. South chose to gamble on slam.

West's choice of a club opening lead is open to argument. The queen won in dummy and declarer did not fancy his chances—in fact, there was no legitimate way that the contract could be made. So declarer had to fall back on subterfuge.

At trick two, he led a low heart from dummy to his queen. East could not rise with the ace without giving declarer his contract, so the queen won. Now declarer exited with a low club.

West won the king and he had to return a heart to defeat the contract as the cards lie. But he was afraid that he would be helping declarer by leading any red suit, so he exited "safely" with a club.

Declarer needed no more. He cashed out all his winners, coming down to four diamonds in his hand and the king and another heart and two diamonds on the table. East had to hold onto the ace of hearts, so he was forced to discard a diamond. Declarer now scored all his diamonds to bring home the slam.

Nakasone rejects Japanese militarism

PEKING (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone Saturday sought to allay Chinese fears of a revival of militarism in his country but expressed Tokyo's own anxiety at a possible reversal of China's current re-opening to the world.

"As the person with ultimate political responsibility for Japan, I can state... without the slightest hesitation, that our nation will never allow a resurgence of militarism," he said in an address televised live from Peking University.

But shortly after receiving a burst of applause from the audience for his assurances, Mr. Nakasone introduced the first note of caution into this much-heralded four-day visit to China.

"However, the obstacles standing in your path are considerable," he told the audience of students and officials.

"Having observed your process of trial and error... I must acknowledge that just as you may feel anxiety about Japan, we have similar feelings regarding your country."

Mr. Nakasone said the main worry of Japan, which has deeply committed itself to China's modernisation programme, was whether Peking would continue in the long term with its open-door policy.

Mr. Nakasone questioned whether the present "consolidation" of the Chinese Communist Party, the campaign against ideological contamination and other internal programmes, might not have an adverse effect on these policies.

"Still another (question) is whether China might develop such influence over Japan's security and the peace and stability of Asia that it causes concern to both ourselves and our neighbours," he said without elaborating.

Diplomats said his warnings seemed to reflect Japanese worries over whether the Chinese leadership would be able to continue open-door policies after Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the man responsible for the present line, retires or dies.

The party is trying to rid itself of die-hard leftists still in power since the days of former Chairman Mao Tsetung, while Peking recently

launched a campaign aimed at "ideological pollution", meaning essentially Western ideas.

Earlier Mr. Nakasone had the rare privilege of lunching at the home of Chinese Party Chief Hu Yaobang, adjoining Peking's old forbidden city.

Mr. Nakasone, on the second day of an official visit, was entertained with his wife Tsutako and son and daughter-in-law in the tightly-guarded leadership compound at Zhongnanhai, the Chinese equivalent of Moscow's Kremlin.

The official New China News Agency said Mr. Hu's wife, Li Zhao, their second son Liu Hu, daughter Li Heng and granddaughter Hu Zhizhi, joined the Japanese visitors for a lunch consisting of highly-spiced Sichuanese dishes washed down with Chinese wines.

The two leaders, whose last meeting was in Tokyo in November, have repeatedly said that China and Japan are now on course for a long-lasting friendship. Shortly after his arrival Friday, Mr. Nakasone announced agree-

ment on a new 470 billion yen (\$2 billion) soft loan to Peking which makes Japan by far the biggest of China's creditors.

Meanwhile, the Chinese and Japanese foreign ministers were holding detailed talks on questions of Asian security, notably the threat they say comes from a Soviet military build-up in the far east and the dangers of heightened tension in Korea.

On Friday night, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang strongly attacked Moscow during two hours of talks with Mr. Nakasone at the Great Hall of the People, describing the Soviet Union as the main threat to Chinese security. Japan and China have long held that the Soviet build-up in the Far East, including recent deployment of SS-20 medium-range nuclear missiles and the Kremlin's growing naval strength in the Pacific, poses a serious threat to both countries.

A Japanese spokesman said Mr. Nakasone proposed Peking and Tokyo should continue their projects to Moscow and meanwhile swap information on Soviet plans.



Yasuhiro Nakasone

Mr. Nakasone Friday night again brought up a possibility that Japan might sponsor quadripartite talks between North and South Korea and their respective allies China and the United States, a Japanese spokesman said.

Mr. Zhao repeated Peking's position that it would not join such discussions but supported Pyongyang's call for tripartite talks involving the United States and the Koreans. South Korea has rejected that suggestion, saying any move to reduce tension on the peninsula should be made by the two Koreas alone.